

Medical Coverage Policies

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Compression Garments

EFFECTIVE DATE	07/01/2005	LAST UPDATED	06/21/2007
RELATED POLICIES	Breast Reconstruction and Applicable Mandates, Varicose Vein Treatment, Lymphedema Pumps		

Description:

A compression garment (stocking/burn garment/gradient pressure aid garment/sleeve) is a custom-made or custom-fitted elastic support garment that is fabricated to apply varying pressure gradients to an area. These garments are considered Durable Medical Equipment (DME). They work by relieving stress on vein walls, restoring venous hemodynamics by aiding muscle pump function, decreasing reflux, increasing tissue pressures that lead to decreased edema, stimulate circulation, and are also used in the treatment of burn patients. Custom-ordered/fitted compression garments require fitting and measuring by a specially trained individual and require a physician order.

Advancements in technology allow many of the compression garments to be pre-made. Very few need to be custom made unless the degree of gradient pressure is one that cannot be provided in a pre-made garment. This type of order can take six to eight weeks. Please note, pre-made stockings are not the same as over-the-counter stockings.

Medical Criteria:

Custom-ordered/fitted compression garments (e.g., stocking/burn garment/gradient pressure aid garment/sleeve) are considered medically necessary for patients when the garment functions as a gradient pressure aid with a degree of pressure which is at least 25mm Hg, requires a physician order (prescription) to be dispensed, and meets **one or more** of the following conditions:

- Treatment of complications of chronic venous insufficiency:
 - Varicose veins (except spider veins)
 - Stasis dermatitis (venous eczema)
 - Venous ulcers (stasis ulcers)
 - Venous edema
 - Lipodermatosclerosis
- Prevention of thrombosis in immobilized persons (e.g., immobilization due to surgery, trauma, general debilitation, etc.)
- Post-thrombotic syndrome (post-phlebotic syndrome)
- Chronic lymphedema, including lymphedema as a physical complication of mastectomy
- Edema following surgery, fracture, burns, or other trauma
- Post sclerotherapy
- Postural hypotension
- Severe edema in pregnancy
- DVT prophylaxis during pregnancy and postpartum
- Edema accompanying paraplegia, quadriplegia, etc.

- Orthostatic hypotension
- Significant burn with risk of post burn contracture, skin grafting and hypertrophic scarring

Policy:

Custom-ordered/fitted compression garments (e.g., stocking/burn garment/gradient pressure aid garment/sleeve) are considered medically necessary for patients who meet the medical criteria listed above.

Custom-ordered/fitted compression garments (e.g., stocking/burn garment/gradient pressure aid garment/sleeve) are considered not medically necessary for conditions other than those listed above.

Custom-ordered/fitted compression garments (e.g., stocking/burn garment/gradient pressure aid garment/sleeve) are not the same as over-the-counter (OTC) support hose/stockings/garments. OTC support hose/stockings/ garments (e.g., medical support hose, fabric supports, elastic stockings with no degree of pressure, surgical leggings) are a contract exclusion and considered a member liability.

Typical usage is four (4) pair or eight (8) individual stockings and/or four (4) pair or eight (8) individual garments/sleeves per calendar year.

Coverage:

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate member certificate/subscriber agreement/Rlte Care contract for applicable Medical Equipment, Medical Supplies and Prosthetic Devices benefits/coverage. Custom-ordered/fitted garments (e.g., stocking/burn garment/gradient pressure aid garment/sleeve) are considered durable medical equipment. Appropriate copayments will be applied as defined by the specific member certificate/subscriber agreement/Rlte Care contract.

OTC support hose/stockings/garments (e.g., medical support hose, fabric supports, elastic stockings with no degree of pressure, surgical leggings) are a contract exclusion and are considered a member liability. See appropriate member certificate/subscriber agreement/Rlte Care contract sections entitled Healthcare Services Not Covered Under This Agreement (5.0) and Personal Appearance and/or Service Items (5.26) for details.

Coding:

To file a claim for a custom ordered/fitted stocking, use HCPCS codes A6530 through A6549 with a description of the stocking and its length; select the appropriate degree of gradient pressure, and follow the medical criteria listed above.

To file a claim for a custom ordered/fitted pressure gradient aid, (sleeve, glove or gauntlet), use HCPCS codes S8420 through S8429 with a description of the appropriate gradient pressure aid garment, (sleeve, glove or gauntlet, or a combination of sleeve and glove); custom or ready-made, and follow the medical criteria listed above.

To file a claim for a custom ordered/fitted compression burn garment, use HCPCS codes A6501 through A6513 with a description of the appropriate garment by anatomical site; custom fabricated, and follow the medical criteria listed above.

Use HCPCS code L8010 to file a claim for a custom-fitted breast prosthesis, mastectomy sleeve.

Compression Garments reported with an unlisted HCPCS code will be reviewed for medical appropriateness.

Garments Also Known As:

Compression stocking
Medical support hose

Burn garment
Mastectomy sleeve
Lymphedema sleeve

Related Topics:

Venous surgery
Breast Reconstruction and Applicable Mandates
Varicose Vein Treatment
Lymphedema Pumps

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