

Medical Coverage Policy



Compression Garments

Device/Equipment Drug Medical Surgery Test Other

Effective Date:	5/6/2008	Policy Last Updated:	10/01/2012
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Prospective review is recommended/required. Please check the member agreement for preauthorization guidelines.

Prospective review is not required.

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:

N/A as this is a reimbursement policy.

Policy:

Custom-ordered/fitted compression garments (e.g., stocking/burn garment/gradient pressure aid garment/sleeve) are covered items.

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**. This would allow one (1) pair or two (2) individual stockings and/or one (1) pair or two (2) individual garments/sleeves **per quarter**.

Coverage:

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber agreement 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 copayment will be applied as defined by the specific Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement 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 and Personal Appearance and/or Service Items for details.

Coding:

The following HCPCS codes are categorized as supplies and are separately reimbursed for DME providers.

A6501 Compression burn garment, bodysuit (head to foot), custom fabricated
A6502 Compression burn garment, chin strap, custom fabricated
A6503 Compression burn garment, facial hood, custom fabricated
A6504 Compression burn garment, glove to wrist, custom fabricated
A6505 Compression burn garment, glove to elbow, custom fabricated
A6506 Compression burn garment, glove to axilla, custom fabricated
A6507 Compression burn garment, foot to knee length, custom fabricated
A6508 Compression burn garment, foot to thigh length, custom fabricated
A6509 Compression burn garment, upper trunk to waist including arm openings (vest), custom fabricated
A6510 Compression burn garment, trunk, including arms down to leg openings (leotard), custom fabricated
A6511 Compression burn garment, lower trunk including leg openings (panty), custom fabricated
A6512 Compression burn garment, not otherwise classified
A6513 Compression burn mask, face and/or neck, plastic or equal, custom fabricated
A6530 Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 18-30 mm Hg, each
A6531 Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 30-40 mm Hg, each
A6532 Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 40-50 mm Hg, each
A6533 Gradient compression stocking, thigh length, 18-30 mm Hg, each
A6534 Gradient compression stocking, thigh length, 30-40 mm Hg, each
A6535 Gradient compression stocking, thigh length, 40-50 mm Hg, each
A6536 Gradient compression stocking, full length/chap style, 18-30 mm Hg, each
A6537 Gradient compression stocking, full length/chap style, 30-40 mm Hg, each
A6538 Gradient compression stocking, full length/chap style, 40-50 mm Hg, each
A6539 Gradient compression stocking, waist length, 18-30 mm Hg, each
A6540 Gradient compression stocking, waist length, 30-40 mm Hg, each
A6541 Gradient compression stocking, waist length, 40-50 mm Hg, each
A6543 Gradient compression stocking, lymphedema
A6544 Gradient compression stocking, garter belt
A6549 Gradient compression stocking, not otherwise specified (code requires submission of invoice for payment)

Effective 08/01/10: The following codes are covered and separately reimbursed for DME providers only and not separately for all other providers

S8420 Gradient pressure aid (sleeve and glove combination), custom made
S8421 Gradient pressure aid (sleeve and glove combination), ready made
S8422 Gradient pressure aid (sleeve), custom made, medium weight
S8423 Gradient pressure aid (sleeve), custom made, heavy weight
S8424 Gradient pressure aid (sleeve), ready made
S8425 Gradient pressure aid (glove), custom made, medium weight
S8426 Gradient pressure aid (glove), custom made, heavy weight
S8427 Gradient pressure aid (glove), ready made
S8428 Gradient pressure aid (gauntlet), ready made
S8429 Gradient pressure exterior wrap

L8010 Breast prosthesis, mastectomy sleeve

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

Published

Policy Update, Aug 2001
Policy update, Nov 2000
Policy Update, Mar 2000
Policy Update, Jun 2002
Policy Update, Aug 2007
Provider Update, Jun 2008
Provider Update, May 2010

Policy History:

10/01/2012: Clarification concerning the number of compression garments are allowed per quarter added.
03/15/2010: Editorial change made
11/02/2010: Code A6542 was deleted 2009 and removed from the policy.

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