

## Payment Policy | Compression Garments



**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 03/01/2013  
**POLICY LAST UPDATED:** 01/22/2013

### OVERVIEW

This payment policy documents coverage for compression garments. 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.

### PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Prior authorization is not required.

### POLICY STATEMENT

#### BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial Products

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.**

### MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not Applicable

### BACKGROUND

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.

### COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage, 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.

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 Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement sections entitled Healthcare Services Not Covered under This Agreement and Personal Appearance and/or Service Items for details.

## **CODING**

### **Blue CHiP for Medicare and Commercial**

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

<b>A6501</b>	<b>A6502</b>	<b>A6503</b>	<b>A6504</b>	<b>A6505</b>	<b>A6506</b>	<b>A6507</b>
<b>A6508</b>	<b>A6509</b>	<b>A6510</b>	<b>A6511</b>	<b>A6512</b>	<b>A6513</b>	<b>A6530</b>
<b>A6531</b>	<b>A6532</b>	<b>A6533</b>	<b>A6534</b>	<b>A6535</b>	<b>A6536</b>	<b>A6537</b>
<b>A6538</b>	<b>A6539</b>	<b>A6540</b>	<b>A6541</b>	<b>A6543</b>	<b>A6544</b>	<b>A6549</b>

The following codes are covered and separately reimbursed for DME providers only and not separately for all other providers:

<b>S8420</b>	<b>S8421</b>	<b>S8422</b>	<b>S8423</b>	<b>S8424</b>	<b>S8425</b>	<b>S8426</b>
<b>S8427</b>	<b>S8428</b>	<b>S8429</b>	<b>L8010</b>			

## **RELATED POLICIES**

Breast Reconstruction and Applicable Mandates  
Varicose Vein Treatments

## **PUBLISHED**

Provider Update	Apr 2013
Provider Update	May 2010
Provider Update	Jun 2008
Policy Update	Aug 2007
Policy Update	Jun 2002
Policy Update	Aug 2001
Policy Update	Nov 2000
Policy Update	Mar 2000

## **REFERENCES**

None

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