

## Medical Coverage Policy | Compression Garments



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

### OVERVIEW

This policy is to document that compression garments are covered services when supplied by a durable medical equipment provider (DME). Over the counter stockings and garments are non-covered

### PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

None

### POLICY STATEMENT

**BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial:**

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

OTC support hose/stockings/ garments (e.g., medical support hose, fabric supports, elastic stockings with no degree of pressure, surgical leggings) are not covered as a contract exclusion and considered a member liability.

### MEDICAL CRITERIA

None

### 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.

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

### 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.

## CODING

### BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial:

The following HCPCS codes are covered when filed by a DME provider

A6501 –A6513, A6530-A6541, A6543, A6544, A6549

S8420-S8429

L8010

## RELATED POLICIES

Coding and Payment Guidelines

## PUBLISHED

Provider Update, April 2013

Provider Update, Jun 2008,

Provider Update, May 2010

Policy Update Aug 2007

Policy Update Jun 2002

Policy Update, Aug 2001

## REFERENCES

None

### CLICK THE ENVELOPE ICON BELOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

This medical policy is made available to you for informational purposes only. It is not a guarantee of payment or a substitute for your medical judgment in the treatment of your patients. Benefits and eligibility are determined by the member's subscriber agreement or member certificate and/or the employer agreement, and those documents will supersede the provisions of this medical policy. For information on member-specific benefits, call the provider call center. If you provide services to a member which are determined to not be medically necessary (or in some cases medically necessary services which are non-covered benefits), you may not charge the member for the services unless you have informed the member and they have agreed in writing in advance to continue with the treatment at their own expense. Please refer to your participation agreement(s) for the applicable provisions. This policy is current at the time of publication; however, medical practices, technology, and knowledge are constantly changing. BCBSRI reserves the right to review and revise this policy for any reason and at any time, with or without notice. Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

