

## Payment Policy | Compression Garments/Stockings



**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 11 | 21 | 2017

**POLICY LAST UPDATED:** 11 | 21 | 2017

### OVERVIEW

A compression garment (stocking/burn garment/gradient pressure aid garment/sleeve) is a typically fitted elastic support garment which is fabricated to apply varying pressure gradients to an area.

### MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable

### PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not applicable

### POLICY STATEMENT

Compression Garments/stockings are covered when ordered by a physician and obtained from a durable medical equipment provider.

**Note:** A member may be dispensed 8 compression stockings or 4 pairs per calendar year. For all other items, we follow Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) maximum units (MUE) guidelines.

Over the counter (OTC) support hose/stockings/ garments (e.g., medical support hose, fabric supports, elastic stockings with no degree of pressure, surgical leggings) are not covered and are member liability.

### COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups and contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Benefit Booklet, Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for applicable durable medical equipment benefits/coverage.

### BACKGROUND

A compression garment (stocking/burn garment/gradient pressure aid garment/sleeve) is a typically 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 vein reflux, increasing tissue pressures that lead to decreased edema, stimulate circulation, and are also used in varying the treatment of burn patients. Compression stockings/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 now 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.

Compression stockings over the counter are a lower grade compression and may not be graduated. Prescription stockings are graduated (pressure decreases from ankle up) and are of specific grades of compression. Higher pressure stockings require a prescription and a trained fitter. These higher pressures range typically are from 20-30 mmHg to 50+ mmHg.

## **CODING**

### **BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial**

The following HCPCS codes are covered when filed by a DME providers.

**Note: these codes are covered but not separately reimbursed when dispensed by a physician office or an institutional provider**

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)  
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

## **RELATED POLICIES**

Coding and Payment Guidelines

## **PUBLISHED**

Provider Update, January 2018

Provider Update, April 2013

Provider Update, Jun 2008  
Provider Update, May 2010  
Policy Update, Aug 2007

**REFERENCES:**

1. Local Coverage Determination (LCD):Surgical Dressings (L33831)  
<https://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jadme/policies/lcd/active>
2. Program Memorandum, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS): Tranmittal AB-03-090:  
Coverage of Compression Garments in the Treatment of Venous Stasis Ulcers.

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