

MEDICAL POLICY

MEDICAL POLICY DETAILS	
Medical Policy Title	Surgical Stockings and Compression Garments
Policy Number	1.01.14
Category	Contract Clarification
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Product Disclaimer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services are contract dependent; if a product excludes coverage for a service, it is not covered, and medical policy criteria do not apply. • If a commercial product (including an Essential Plan or Child Health Plus product), medical policy criteria apply to the benefit. • If a Medicaid product covers a specific service, and there are no New York State Medicaid guidelines (eMedNY) criteria, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit. • If a Medicare product (including Medicare HMO-Dual Special Needs Program (DSNP) product) covers a specific service, and there is no national or local Medicare coverage decision for the service, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit. • If a Medicare HMO-Dual Special Needs Program (DSNP) product DOES NOT cover a specific service, please refer to the Medicaid Product coverage line.

POLICY STATEMENT

- I. Prescription custom-made or custom-fitted surgical stockings/graduated-compression garments, such as Jobst, Sigvaris, CircAid, Juzo, ReidSleeve, Sigvaris, Bellisse Bra, and the Solaris Tribute, are considered **medically appropriate** for the following indications:
 - A. Venous insufficiency
 - B. Venous (stasis) ulcer(s);
 - C. Varicose veins;
 - D. Phlebitis/thrombophlebitis;
 - E. Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) prophylaxis during pregnancy and postpartum, or immobilization due to surgery, trauma, or general debilitation;
 - F. Orthostatic (postural) hypotension;
 - G. Chronic lymphedema;
 - H. Intractable lymphedema of the upper extremity subsequent secondary to lymph node dissection related to cancer surgery; and
 - I. Edema following surgery, fracture, burns or other trauma.
- II. Two pair of graduated compression stockings (GCS), on initial prescription, are considered **medically appropriate**. Coverage of any additional GCS within the same calendar year is subject to medical necessity review (e.g., change in size, unusual drainage, wear that renders them ineffective).
- III. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer -reviewed literature, GCS solely for the purpose of air travel in those individuals at low-risk for DVT are **not medically necessary**, as they do not improve patient outcomes.

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Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #1.01.17 Powered Compression Devices/Lymphedema Pumps

Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #1.01.51 Limb Pneumatic Compression Devices for Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis

POLICY GUIDELINES

Compression garments/stockings available over the counter, without a prescription, with pressures less than 30 millimeters of mercury (mmHg) (e.g., anti-embolism stockings [TEDs], elastic stockings, and support hose) are **ineligible for coverage** under most Health Plan contracts.

DESCRIPTION

Compression therapy aims to control or reduce interstitial fluid formation, supports venous return, augments muscle pump, improves lymphatic flow, and maintains limb volume reduction (Lim and Davies, 2014). Working like a pump, compression therapy exerts controlled external pressure on extremities to help circulate blood toward the heart and improve lymphatic drainage.

Forms of compression therapy include elastic and non-elastic bandages, boots, garments (hosiery or stockings), and pneumatic devices. Nonmedical support hosiery (e.g., flight socks and elastic support stockings) are widely available over the counter without a physician's prescription/order. This type of support provides considerably less compression than graduated compression stockings and are often used to provide relief for tired, heavy, and aching legs.

Medical or graduated compression garments/stockings exert the greatest degree of compression, and the level of compression gradually decrease up the garment to aid fluid/blood movement (Lim and Davies, 2014). Graduated compression stockings are available by physician prescription/order only and are used in situations where they can prevent thrombi formation and pitting edema. They are ordered by the level of compression that they provide: Class 1, low-pressure stockings exert an ankle pressure less than 20 mm Hg; Class 2, moderate compression is between 20 and 30mm Hg; and Class 3 stocking are high compression stockings with ankle pressures of greater than 30 mm Hg (Gloviczki et al., 2024). The greater the compression level, or compression strength, the tighter the compression stocking.

Graduated compression garments/stockings are usually indicated following surgery or stroke, during pregnancy, and for treating complications of venous insufficiency (e.g., ulceration, varicose veins). Graduated compression garments can be prescribed for chronic lymphedema, or secondary lymphedema as a result of injury or obstruction to the lymphatic system (e.g., surgical excision of lymph nodes).

Lymphedema compression garments have been shown to reduce limb volume and are often used with other modalities such as manual lymphatic drainage. A lymphedema sleeve is a custom-fabricated garment that applies gradient pressure to an affected limb and is worn to reduce or maintain the volume of the upper limb (e.g., ReidSleeve, ArmAssist, Jobst, Juzo, CircAid, Sigvaris, and the Solaris Tribute). There are two types of lymphedema sleeves: those made of specialized elastic-knit, two-way, stretch sleeves or stockings (e.g., Jobst or Juzo) and those in which gradient compression is achieved through high to low pressure ratios created by variations in density, type, size, proportion, and insertion pressure of foam (e.g., Reidsleeve or Tribute). Elastic garments are usually prescribed for the initial treatment of lymphedema and worn under clothing during the day (including while exercising). Lymphedema sleeves such as the Reidsleeve or Tribute are used in addition to elastic garments, typically after decongestive therapy to maintain limb volume. They can replace bandaging of the affected extremity and are usually worn at night. These garments are usually prescribed for intractable lymphedema (lymphedema that has been difficult to manage and nonresponsive to decongestive treatment).

The Solaris Tribute garment can be used for the treatment of lymphedema of the lower extremity, as well as the upper extremity. The lower extremity garment is boot-shaped, applies gradient compression to the lower extremity, and usually replaces bandaging of the affected lower extremity.

The Compressure Comfort Bra by Bellisse is contoured similarly to a bra; however, it is not considered a mastectomy bra. The garment applies gentle compression all around the torso and is used for treatment of lymphedema of the armpit, chest, breast, and/or back.

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RATIONALE

The Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 and the New York Insurance Law mandated coverage for treatment of physical complications of mastectomy, including lymphedema. All contracts and benefit plans that provide medical and surgical benefits must cover this type of treatment.

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) publishes supportive care guidelines for Survivorship, including lymphedema. Based on cited research findings that compression garments have been shown to reduce limb volume, NCCN recommends the consideration of compression garments for ongoing home management of lymphedema.

In 2023, the Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS), the American Venous Forum (AVF), and the American Vein and Lymphatic Society collaborated to publish updated guidelines for the management of varicose veins of the lower extremities (Gloviczki et al., 2024). Based on a comprehensive review of the literature, this multi-society and multispecialty writing committee recommends compression therapy as a primary treatment for symptomatic varicose veins and axial reflux in the superficial truncal veins, and postprocedural compression following thermal ablation of saphenous incompetence for a minimum of one (1) week for pain reduction.

In 2018 the International Compression Club (ICC), an ad hoc group of experts involved in compression therapy, published an updated consensus statement on the indications for use of medical compression stockings in the management of venous and lymphatic disorders (Rabe et al., 2018). Based on the current evidence, 25 recommendations for chronic and acute venous disorders were made. The panel members found moderately robust evidence for medical compression stockings in patients with venous symptoms and prevention and treatment of venous edema. Robust evidence was found for prevention and treatment of venous leg ulcers. For the maintenance phase of lymphedema management, compression stockings are the most important intervention. In acute deep vein thrombosis, immediate compression is recommended to reduce pain and swelling. Despite conflicting results from a recent study to prevent post-thrombotic syndrome, medical compression stockings are still recommended. In thromboprophylaxis, the role of stockings in addition to anticoagulation is limited. Recommendations for stocking-use after great saphenous vein interventions were limited to the first post-interventional week. No randomized clinical trials are available that document a prophylactic effect of medical compression stockings on the progression of chronic venous disease (CVD).

Long-Distance Travel

The 2018 ICC consensus statement found that all levels of compression improve venous symptoms and edema, including over the counter, non-prescription, stockings at low compression pressure (10–20 mmHg). Recommending the use of compression stockings to prevent leg swelling in patients with cardiovascular disease (CVD) and in healthy individuals at risk of leg swelling, with the pressure level adapted to the severity of the disease and limited to the lowest pressure leading to symptom and edema relief.

A 2021 Cochrane Review addressed increasing interest in whether compression stockings (or 'flight socks') reduce the risk of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and other circulatory problems in airline passengers (Clarke et al., 2021). No trial with compression strength greater than 30 mmHg was identified for this review. Of the 12 randomized trials (n = 2918) included in the review, 5 trials assessed below-knee compression stockings with compression strength of 10 to 20 mmHg, only 4 trials assessed compression stockings of 20 to 30 mmHg, and no trials assessed compression greater than 30 mmHg. Eight trials included people judged to be at low or medium risk of developing DVT (n = 1598) and two included high-risk participants (n = 1273). The certainty of the evidence was limited by the way that edema was measured. The authors reported that high-certainty evidence shows that airline passengers wearing compression stockings develop less symptomless DVT and low-certainty evidence shows that leg swelling is reduced when compared to not wearing flight compression socks.

The ninth edition of the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP) guidelines suggested the following preventive measures for patients deemed to be at risk of VTE on long-haul flights: walking, calf muscle exercises, and aisle seating (evidence level 2C) (Falck-Ytter et al., 2012). The ACCP guidelines suggested that passengers on long-haul flights who are at risk of VTE should wear below the knee compression stockings providing 15 - 30 mmHg of pressure at the ankle

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during the flight (evidence level 2C). Updated ACCP guidelines do not address long-haul air travel (Kearon et al., 2016; Stevens et al., 2021).

CODES

- Eligibility for reimbursement is based upon the benefits set forth in the member's subscriber contract.
- CODES MAY NOT BE COVERED UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. PLEASE READ THE POLICY AND GUIDELINES STATEMENTS CAREFULLY.
- Codes may not be all inclusive as the AMA and CMS code updates may occur more frequently than policy updates.
- Code Key: Experimental/Investigational = (E/I), Not medically necessary/ appropriate = (NMN).

CPT Codes

Code	Description
No codes(s)	

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HCPCS Codes

Code	Description
A4490 (NMN)	Surgical stockings above knee length, each
A4495 (NMN)	Surgical stocking thigh length, each
A4500 (NMN)	Surgical stocking below knee length, each
A4510 (NMN)	Surgical stocking full-length, each
A6520	Gradient compression garment, glove, padded, for nighttime use, each
A6521	Gradient compression garment, glove, padded, for nighttime use, custom, each
A6522	Gradient compression garment, arm, padded, for nighttime use, each
A6523	Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 30-40 mmHg, custom, each
A6524	Gradient compression garment, lower leg, and foot, padded, for nighttime use, custom each
A6525	Gradient compression garment, lower leg, and foot, padded, for nighttime use, each
A6526	Gradient compression garment, full leg, and foot, padded, for nighttime use, each
A6527	Gradient compression garment, full leg, and foot, padded, for nighttime use, custom, each
A6528	Gradient compression garment, bra, for nighttime use, each
A6529	Gradient compression garment, bra, for nighttime use, custom, each
A6530	Gradient compression stocking; below knee, 18-30 mmHg, each
A6531	below knee, 30-40 mmHg, used as a surgical dressing, each
A6532	below knee, 40-50 mmHg, used as a surgical dressing, each
A6533	thigh length, 18-30 mmHg, each
A6534	thigh length, 30-40 mmHg, each
A6535	thigh length, 40-50 mmHg, used as a surgical dressing, each
A6536	full length/chap style, 18-30 mmHg, each
A6537	full length/chap style, 30-40 mmHg, each
A6538	full length/chap style, 40-50 mmHg, or greater each
A6539	waist length, 18-30 mmHg, each

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Code	Description
A6540	waist length, 30-40 mmHg, or greater each
A6541	waist length, 40-50 mmHg, each
A6544 (NMN)	garter belt
A6545	Gradient compression wrap non-elastic, below knee, 30-50 mmHg used as a surgical dressing, each
A6549	Gradient compression stocking/sleeve, not otherwise specified
A6552	Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 30-40 mmHg, each
A6553	Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 30-40 mmHg, custom, each
A6554	Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 40 mmHg or greater, each
A6555	Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 40 mmHg or greater, custom, each
A6556	Gradient compression stocking, thigh length, 18-30 mmHg, custom, each
A6557	Gradient compression stocking, thigh length, 30-40 mmHg, custom, each
A6558	Gradient compression stocking, thigh length, 40 mmHg or greater, custom, each
A6559	Gradient compression stocking, full length/chap style, 18-30 mmHg, custom, each
A6560	Gradient compression stocking, full length/chap style, 30-40 mmHg, custom, each
A6561	Gradient compression stocking, full length/chap style, 40 mmHg or greater, custom, each
A6562	Gradient compression stocking, waist length, 18-30 mmHg, custom, each
A6563	Gradient compression stocking, waist length, 30-40 mmHg, custom, each
A6564	Gradient compression stocking, waist length, 40 mmHg or greater, custom, each
A6565	Gradient compression gauntlet, custom, each
A6566	Gradient compression garment, neck/head, each
A6567	Gradient compression garment, neck/head, custom, each
A6568	Gradient compression garment, torso, and shoulder, each
A6569	Gradient compression garment, torso/shoulder, custom, each
A6570	Gradient compression garment, genital region, each
A6571	Gradient compression garment, genital region, custom, each
A6572	Gradient compression garment, toe caps, each
A6573	Gradient compression garment, toe caps, custom, each
A6574	Gradient compression arm sleeve and glove combination, custom, each
A6575	Gradient compression arm sleeve and glove combination, each
A6576	Gradient compression arm sleeve, custom, medium weight, each
A6577	Gradient compression arm sleeve, custom, heavy weight, each
A6578	Gradient compression arm sleeve, each
A6579	Gradient compression glove, custom, medium weight, each
A6580	Gradient compression glove, custom, heavy weight, each
A6581	Gradient compression glove, each
A6582	Gradient compression gauntlet, each
A6583	Gradient compression wrap with adjustable straps, below knee, 30-50 mmHg, each
A6584	Gradient compression wrap with adjustable straps, not otherwise specified
A6585	Gradient pressure wrap with adjustable straps, above knee, each
A6586	Gradient pressure wrap with adjustable straps, full leg, each
A6587	Gradient pressure wrap with adjustable straps, foot, each (<i>Effective 01/01/24</i>)
A6588	Gradient pressure wrap with adjustable straps, arm, each
A6589	Gradient pressure wrap with adjustable straps, bra, each
A6593	Accessory for gradient compression garment or wrap with adjustable straps, non-otherwise specified

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Code	Description
A6594	Gradient compression bandaging supply, bandage liner, lower extremity, any size, or length, each
A6595	Gradient compression bandaging supply, bandage liner, upper extremity, any size, or length, each
A6596	Gradient compression bandaging supply, conforming gauze, per linear yard, any width, each
A6597	Gradient compression bandage roll, elastic long stretch, linear yard, any width, each
A6598	Gradient compression bandage roll, elastic medium stretch, per linear yard, any width, each
A6599	Gradient compression bandage roll, inelastic short stretch, per linear yard, any width, each
A6600	Gradient compression bandage roll, inelastic short stretch, per linear yard, any width, each
A6601	Gradient compression bandaging supply, high density foam pad, any size or shape, each
A6602	Gradient compression bandaging supply, high density foam roll for bandage, per linear yard, any width, each
A6603	Gradient compression bandaging supply, low density channel foam sheet, per 250 square centimeters, each
A6604	Gradient compression bandaging supply, low density flat foam sheet, per 250 square centimeters, each
A6605	Gradient compression bandaging supply, padded foam, per linear yard, any width, each
A6606	Gradient compression bandaging supply, padded textile, per linear yard, any width, each
A6607	Gradient compression bandaging supply, tubular protective absorption layer, per linear yard, any width, each
A6608	Gradient compression bandaging supply, tubular protective absorption padded layer, per linear yard, any width, each
A6609	Gradient compression bandaging supply, not otherwise specified
A6610	Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 18-30 mmHg, custom, each

ICD10 Codes

Code	Description
I50.20-I50.23	Acute or chronic systolic (congestive) heart failure (code range)
I50.30-I50.33	Acute or chronic diastolic (congestive) heart failure (code range)
I50.40-I50.43	Acute or chronic combined systolic (congestive) and diastolic (congestive) heart failure (code range)
I50.9	Heart failure, unspecified
I67.89	Other cerebrovascular disease
I70.231-I70.249	Atherosclerosis of native arteries of lower extremity with ulceration (code range)
I70.331-I70.349	Atherosclerosis of unspecified type of bypass graft(s) of the lower extremity with ulceration (code range)
I70.431-I70.449	Atherosclerosis of autologous vein bypass graft(s) of the lower extremity with ulceration (code range)
I70.531-I70.549	Atherosclerosis of nonautologous biological bypass graft(s) of the lower extremity with ulceration (code range)

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Code	Description
I70.631-I70.649	Atherosclerosis of nonbiological bypass graft(s) of the lower extremity with ulceration of thigh (code range)
I70.731-I70.749	Atherosclerosis of other type of bypass graft(s) of the lower extremity with ulceration (code range)
I80.00-I80.03	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of superficial vessels of lower extremity (code range)
I80.10-I80.13	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of femoral vein (code range)
I80.201-I80.209	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified deep vessels of the lower extremity (code range)
I80.211-I80.219	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of iliac vein (code range)
I80.221-I80.229	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of popliteal vein (code range)
I80.291-I80.299	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of other deep vessels of lower extremity (code range)
I80.3	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of lower extremities, unspecified
I83.001-I83.93	Varicose veins of lower extremity with ulcer and/or inflammation (code range)
I87.2	Venous insufficiency (chronic) (peripheral)
I87.9	Disorder of vein, unspecified
I89.0	Lymphedema, not elsewhere classified
I97.2	Postmastectomy lymphedema syndrome
L97.101- L97.129	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of (code range)
L97.201 – L97.229	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of calf (code range)
L97.301 – L97.329	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of (code range)
L97.401- L97.429	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of heel and midfoot (code range)
L97.501 - L97.529	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of foot (code range)
L97.801 - L97.829	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of (code range)
L97.901 - L97.929	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified part of lower leg (code range)
O22.20-O22.23	Superficial thrombophlebitis in pregnancy (code range)
O22.30-O22.33	Deep phlebothrombosis in pregnancy (code range)
O22.50-O22.53	Cerebral venous thrombosis in pregnancy (code range)
O22.90-O22.93	Venous complication in pregnancy (code range)
O87.0-O87.9	Thrombophlebitis in the puerperium (code range)
Q82.0	Hereditary lymphedema
T80.1xxA	Vascular complications following infusion, transfusion and therapeutic injection, initial encounter
T81.718A	Complication of other artery following a procedure, not elsewhere classified, initial encounter
T8.1719A	Complication of unspecified artery following a procedure, not elsewhere classified, initial encounter
T81.72xA	Complication of vein following a procedure, not elsewhere classified, initial encounter

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*Key Article

KEY WORDS

GCS, Gradient compression stockings, Graduated compression stockings, Lymphedema sleeve, Mastectomy sleeve, Belisse bra.

CMS COVERAGE FOR MEDICARE PRODUCT MEMBERS

There is currently a National Coverage Determination (NCD) (280.1) for Durable Medical Equipment Reference List. Please refer to the following NCD website for Medicare Members:

[<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/ncd.aspx?NCDId=190>] accessed 07/10/24.

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There is currently a Local Coverage Determination (LCD) (L33831) for Surgical Dressings. Please refer to the following LCD website for Medicare Members:

[\[https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/lcd.aspx?lcdid=33831&ver=48&bc=0\]](https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/lcd.aspx?lcdid=33831&ver=48&bc=0) accessed 07/10/24.

There is currently a Local Coverage Article (LCA) (A54563) for Surgical Dressings - Policy Article. Please refer to the following article website for Medicare Members:

[\[https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/article.aspx?articleid=54563&ver=50&bc=0\]](https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/article.aspx?articleid=54563&ver=50&bc=0) accessed 07/10/24.