

Medical Policy



Pressure Gradient Garments and Support Stockings

Description

Pressure gradient garments and support stockings are designed to promote and restore normal fluid circulation to the extremities as well as to minimize excessive scarring responses in burn victims. The garments are custom-*fitted* **and/or** custom-*made* from precise measurements of the body and can vary from lymphedema sleeves for the arm, knee length to full-length stockings, waist high leotard, to various other body parts such as the hands.

Pressure gradient “compression” stockings are specialized hosiery that are tightest at the ankles and become less constrictive up the leg. They are used to help increase circulation, prevent the formation of blood clots, and treat ulcers of the lower legs. By compressing surface veins, arteries and muscles beneath the skin, arterial pressure is increased. The increased pressure leads to improved blood flow, decreased pooling of blood in the lower legs and feet, and decreased swelling.

Compression stockings are available in different pressure gradients. Traditionally, all custom-fitted and custom-made stockings require a prescription by the treating practitioner and require measurement for fitting. These stockings start at 20 mmHg compression and increase from there. Compression stockings with less than 20 mmHg are usually measured by shoe size and fit like normal dress socks.

Custom-*fitted* gradient compression stockings are considered off-the-shelf and available in a range of sizes. Three to five measurements are taken of the member’s limb to determine the proper size stocking that meets the member's dimensions.

Custom-*made* gradient compression stockings are stockings that are made for members that do not fall into the standard dimensions of off-the-shelf stockings. This generally requires using a specialty tape measure that has measurements every inch and a half to ensure a custom fit for the member and is hand sewn by the manufacturer.

Policy Guidelines

Health New England Commercial Members	Refer to Medicare (CMS) Surgical Dressings Local Coverage Determination (L33831) and related Policy Article (A54563) for coverage criteria.
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Medicare Member Coverage Criteria:

Refer to Medicare policy (L33831) and article (A54563) for coverage criteria.

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Non-Medicare Member Coverage Criteria:

Policy Guidelines for Commercial/NH Medicaid Members

Custom-fitted/custom-made compression garments (e.g., support stocking/burn garment/gradient pressure garment/sleeve) that have a pressure of **18 mmHg-30 mmHg or more** (e.g., A6530 Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 18-30 mmHg, each), that require a treating practitioner's order (prescription) to be dispensed and require measurements for fitting are considered **medically necessary** for any of the following conditions:

- Chronic lymphedema, including lymphedema as a physical complication of mastectomy
- DVT prophylaxis during pregnancy and postpartum
- Edema accompanying paraplegia, quadriplegia, etc.
- Edema following surgery, fracture, burns, or other trauma
- Orthostatic hypotension
- Phlebitis/Thrombophlebitis
- Post sclerotherapy
- Post-thrombotic syndrome (post-phlebotic syndrome)
- Postural hypotension
- Prevention of thrombosis in immobilized members (e.g., immobilization due to surgery, trauma, general debilitation, etc.)
- Severe circulatory disorder (*see below)
- Severe edema in pregnancy/high-risk pregnancy
- Significant burn with risk of post burn contracture, skin grafting and hypertrophic scarring.
- Treatment of complications of chronic venous insufficiency:
 - Lipodermatosclerosis
 - Stasis dermatitis (venous eczema)
 - Varicose veins (except spider veins)
 - Venous edema
 - Venous ulcers (stasis ulcers)

*A severe circulatory disorder is any disorder or condition that affects the circulatory system. Circulatory disorders can arise from problems with the heart, blood vessels or the blood itself. Disorders of the circulatory system generally result in diminished flow of blood and oxygen supply to the tissues. The heart and blood vessels make up the circulatory system. These conditions can include, **but are not limited to:**

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- Coronary heart disease (CHD), stroke, hypertension, and congestive heart failure, ventricular arrhythmias, congenital cardiovascular disorders, rheumatic heart disease, peripheral artery disease, deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism.
- Lymphedema or chronic venous insufficiency with the goal of preventing the onset or worsening of venous stasis ulcers.

Burn pressure garments are covered when medically necessary to enhance healing, reduce swelling, treat contractures and hypertrophic scars suffered by severely burned patients.

Non-elastic leg binders are considered reasonable and necessary for members who meet the selection criteria for pressure gradient support stockings listed above. Non-elastic leg binders are similar to graded compression stockings in that they provide static compression of the leg, but unlike graded compression stockings, they do not use elastic, but use adjustable Velcro or buckle straps.

Limitations

Gradient Compression Stocking:

- No more than four (4) support garments per year, unless supported by specific state Medicaid limits.
- Additional support garments will be covered if the member's primary care physician determines they are required due to significant gain or loss in weight or change in the patient's condition.

Burn Garments:

- No limitations.

Exclusions

- Support garments are considered **not** reasonable and necessary for the prevention of stasis ulcers or for the prevention of the reoccurrence of stasis ulcers that have healed.
- Compression garments for the legs are considered experimental and investigational for the chest, labia, trunk or neck. There is a lack of peer-reviewed published literature evaluating the clinical utility of compression garments for these types of lymphedemas.
- Compression garments for the legs are considered experimental and investigational for improving functional performance in individuals with Parkinson's disease.

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- Compression garments for the legs are considered experimental and investigational for management of delayed-onset muscle soreness.
- Stockings purchased over the counter without a prescription which have a pressure of **less than 20 mm Hg** (e.g., elastic stockings, surgical leggings, anti-embolism stockings such as T.E.D. hose or pressure leotards) are considered experimental and investigational since they have not been proven to be effective in the treatment of the conditions listed in this policy or in preventing a thromboembolism. They are also not considered reasonable and necessary because they are not primarily medical in nature.

ICD-10 codes covered if selection criteria are met (not all inclusive):	
G81.00 - G81.94	Hemiplegia and hemiparesis
G82.20 - G83.9	Paraplegia (paraparesis), quadriplegia (quadriparesis) and other paralytic syndromes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I80.00- I80.209• I80.221- I80.3	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of superficial or deep vessels of lower extremities
I83.001 - I83.899	Varicose veins of lower extremities, with ulcer, with inflammation, with ulcer and inflammation, or with other complications
I87.00 - I87.099	Post thrombotic syndrome
I87.2	Venous insufficiency (chronic)(peripheral)
I89.0 - I89.9	Other noninfective disorders of lymphatic vessels and lymph nodes
I95.1	Orthostatic hypotension
O12.00 - O12.05	Gestational edema
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• O22.00 - O22.03,• O87.4	Varicose veins of lower extremity in pregnancy
O90.89	Other complications of the puerperium, not elsewhere classified [postpartum edema] [not covered for pain during post-natal care]
Q82.0	Hereditary lymphedema
R60.0 - R60.9	Edema, not elsewhere classified
Z74.01	Bed confinement status

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Coding Guidelines

For the compression stocking codes A6531 and A6532, one unit of service is generally for one stocking. However, if a manufacturer has a product consisting of two components that are designed to be worn simultaneously on the same leg, the two components must be billed as one claim line with one unit of service (e.g., a product that consists of an unzipped liner and a zippered stocking).

The right (RT) and/or left (LT) modifiers must be used with codes A6531, A6532, A6545 for gradient compression stockings and wraps. When the same code for bilateral items (left and right) is billed on the same date of service, bill each item on two separate claim lines using the RT and LT modifiers and 1 unit of service (UOS) on each claim line. Claims billed without modifiers RT and/or LT will be rejected as incorrect coding.

HCPCS Level II Codes and Description

A4465	Non-Elastic Binder for Extremity
A4490	Surgical Stocking, Above Knee Length, Each
A4495	Surgical Stocking, Thigh Length, Each
A4500	Surgical Stocking, Below Knee Length, Each
A4510	Surgical Stocking, Full Length, Each
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 mmHg, Each

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A6531	Gradient Compression Stocking, Below Knee, 30-40 mmHg, Each
A6532	Gradient Compression Stocking, Below Knee, 40-50 mmHg, Each
A6533	Gradient Compression Stocking, Thigh Length, 18-30 mmHg, Each
A6534	Gradient Compression Stocking, Thigh Length, 30-40 mmHg, Each
A6535	Gradient Compression Stocking, Thigh Length, 40-50 mmHg, Each
A6536	Gradient Compression Stocking, Full Length, Chap Style 18-30 mmHg, Each
A6537	Gradient Compression Stocking, Full Length/Chap Style, 30-40 mmHg, Each
A6538	Gradient Compression Stocking, Full Length/Chap Style, 40-50 mmHg, Each
A6539	Gradient Compression Stocking, Waist Length, 18-30 mmHg Each
A6540	Gradient Compression Stocking, Waist Length, 30-40 mmHg, Each
A6541	Gradient Compression Stocking, Waist Length, 40-50 mmHg, Each
A6542	Gradient Compression Stocking Custom Made
A6543	Gradient Compression Stocking, Lymphedema
A6544	Gradient Compression Stocking, Garter Belt
A6545	Gradient Compression Wrap, Non-Elastic, Below Knee, 30-50 mmHg Each
A6549	Gradient Compression Stocking Not Otherwise Specified
A6552	Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 30-40 mmHg, each (Effective 1/1/24)
A6554	Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 40 mmHg or greater, each (Effective 1/1/24)
A6583	Gradient compression wrap with adjustable straps, below knee, 30-50 mmHg, each (Effective 1/1/24)
L8010	Breast Prosthesis, Mastectomy Sleeve

Important Note:

Northwood's Medical Policies are developed to assist Northwood in administering plan benefits and determining whether a particular DMEPOS product or service is reasonable and necessary. Equipment that is used primarily and customarily for a non-medical purpose is not considered durable medical equipment.

Coverage determinations are made on a case-by-case basis and are subject to all of the terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the member's contract including medical necessity requirements.

The conclusion that a DMEPOS product or service is reasonable and necessary does not constitute coverage. The member's contract defines which DMEPOS product or service is covered, excluded or limited. The policies provide for clearly written, reasonable and current criteria that have been approved by Northwood's Medical Director.

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The clinical criteria and medical policies provide guidelines for determining the medical necessity for specific DMEPOS products or services. In all cases, final benefit determinations are based on the applicable contract language. To the extent there are any conflicts between medical policy guidelines and applicable contract language, the contract language prevails. Medical policy is not intended to override the policy that defines the member's benefits, nor is it intended to dictate to providers how to direct care. Northwood Medical policies shall not be interpreted to limit the benefits afforded to Medicare or Medicaid members by law and regulation.

Northwood reserves the right to amend all policies without notice to providers or members.

Northwood's policies do not constitute medical advice. Northwood does not provide or recommend treatment to members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Northwood follows all CMS National coverage Determinations (NCD) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD), as applicable.

Cross Reference to Related Policies and Procedures

1. Aetna: Compression Garments for the Legs.
http://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/400_499/0482.html Last accessed/reviewed 12-19-23.
2. Blue Care Network of Michigan: Pressure Gradient Garments and Support Stockings Medical Policy. Accessed 11/14/19.
3. National Government Services, Inc. Jurisdiction B DME MAC, Surgical Dressings. Local Coverage Determination No. L33831.
<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=33831&ContrID=140> Last accessed and reviewed 12/19/23.
4. Horizon BCBSN Medical Policy Section DME; Policy Number 048. Last accessed and reviewed 11/22/23. <https://services3.horizon-bcbsnj.com/hcm/MedPol2.nsf/MedicalPolicies/RFMI-9Y9KA7>
5. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30995000/> Cardiovascular Disease: Chronic Venous Insufficiency and Varicose Veins Craig Barstow 1, David Kassop; Accessed 3/4/2022.
6. <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/body/21775-circulatory-system> Added 3/4/22.
7. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK83160/> Added 3/4/22.

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8. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/durable-medical-equipment-regulations/download> Last accessed and reviewed 11/22/23.

SPECIAL COVERAGE INFORMATION PER PLAN:

WellSense Medicaid Members Only:	The allowable for the (L8010) mastectomy sleeve is two (2) per year.
Health New England Commercial/Self-Funded Plans:	The allowable is no more than six (3 pairs) pressure gradient support garments per year.
GIC Group:	Effective through 6/30/019: Unlimited quantity of pressure gradient support stockings for GIC Group ONLY
Security Health Plan (SHP)	Security Health Plan includes the following diagnoses to be included in the criteria for coverage of compression stockings (4 pair per calendar year): I83-I83.899 Varicose veins of lower extremities I83.90 Asymptomatic varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity I89.0 Lymphedema, not elsewhere classified I97.2 Postmastectomy Lymphedema Syndrome I97.89 Other postprocedural complications and disorders of the circulatory system, not elsewhere classified O12.01 Gestational edema, first trimester O12.02 Gestational edema, second trimester O12.03 Gestational edema, third trimester O12.21 Gestational edema with proteinuria, first trimester O12.22 Gestational edema with proteinuria, second trimester

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	<p>O12.23 Gestational edema with proteinuria, third trimester O26.01 Excessive weight gain in pregnancy, first trimester O26.02 Excessive weight gain in pregnancy, second trimester O26.03 Excessive weight gain in pregnancy, third trimester Q82.0 Hereditary Lymphedema R60.0 Localized Edema R60.1 Generalized Edema R60.9 Edema Unspecified</p>
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Change/Authorization History

Revision Number	Date	Description of Change	Prepared/Reviewed by	Approved by	Review Date:	Effective Date:
A	Nov.2008	Initial Release	Rosanne Brugnani	Ken Fasse	n/a	
01		Annual Review	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	Dec.2008	
02	12-22-09	Annual Review/ no changes	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	Dec.2009	
03		Annual review – policy update	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	Dec.2010	
04	07-20-11	Added Important Note to all Medical Policies	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri		
05	8-24-11	Added ICD-9 code 459.81 Venous Insufficiency to graph	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri		
06	04-04-12	Added reference to NH Medicaid	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri		
07	12-3-12	Annual Review – No changes	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	Dec 12	
08	12-11-13	Annual review. No changes	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri		

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09	11-25-14	Annual Review. Added burn garments to this policy and removed them from the surgical dressing policy.	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri		
10	06-24-15	Added Security Health Plan inclusion of the following ICD-9 codes for coverage for compression stockings at 4 per calendar year. 454.9 Asymptomatic varicose veins. 782.3 Edema 646.13 Edema or excessive weight gain, antepartum.	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri		
11	12-15-15	Annual review. Updated policy with Medicare policy criteria and added ICD-10 Codes for SHP specifically. Removed reference to Diagnosis codes per Medicare policy.	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri		
12	04-11-17	Added to SHP approved diagnoses codes I 83-I 83.899 Varicose Veins of Lower Extremities.	Susan Glomb	Dr. C. Lerchin		
13	12-4-17	Annual review. Updated policy to reflect compression garments for legs are considered experimental and investigational for improving functional performance in Parkinson's disease.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	December 2017	
14	1-11-18	Added new reference (Aetna) to policy.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	January 2018	

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15	4-20-18	Updated ICD-10 codes in SHP box to R60.0, R60.1 and R60.9 (number 0 was missing from these codes).	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	4-20-18	
16	6-26-18	Added Medicare guidelines for Gradient Compression Stockings, Wraps and Burn Garments.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	6/26/18	
17	10-10-18	Added HNE Commercial/Self-Funded groups allowable of 6/year compression stockings.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	10-10-18	
18	11-20-18	Annual review. See above for changes.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	11-20-18	
19	5-2-19	HNE GIC group allowed unlimited compression stockings effective only until 6/30/19.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	5-2-19	
20	6-27-19	Added Well Sense criteria L8010 2/year allowed.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	6-27-19	
21	11-13-19	Compression garments for the legs are considered experimental and investigational for management of delayed-onset muscle soreness. Added BCN of MI to reference list.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	11-13-19	11-13-19
22	11-22-19	Annual review. Additional ICD-10 codes (I89.0, I97.2, I97.89, Q82.0) added to SHP box per Plan	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	11-22-19	11-22-19

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		request.				
23	11-13-20	Annual Review. Added 'unless supported by specific State Medicaid guidelines.'	Lisa Wojno	Dr. C. Lerchin	11-13-20	
24	11-24-21	Annual Review. Added NCD/LCD verbiage to "Important Notes".	Carol Dimech/Susan Glomb	Dr. C. Lerchin	11-24-21	
25	3-15-22	Changed WellSense to one word d/t rebranding per Plan.	Carol Dimech/Susan Glomb	Dr. C. Lerchin	3-15-22	3-15-22
26	11-23-22	Annual review. Updated qualifying condition list for clarity. Added custom-fitted/custom-made to description. Added ICD-10 codes, coding and references.	Carol Dimech	Dr. Cheryl Lerchin	11-23-22	11-23-22
27	4-27-23	Replaced Medicare Guidelines verbiage with Medicare box directing the reader to CMS LCD/Policy Article for accuracy.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	4-27-23	4-27-23
28	6-22-23	Added "Health New England Commercial Members" to coverage criteria box on page 1.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	6-22-23	6-22-23
29	11-22-23	Annual review. Added HCPCS codes A6552, A6554, A6583 per CMS – Effective 1/1/24.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	11-22-23	11-22-23