



### 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 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.

#### Policy

Compression stockings are available in different pressure gradients. They require a prescription from the treating practitioner and require measurements for fitting. These stockings start at 20 mmHg compression and increase from there.

Standard 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-fitted gradient compression stockings are stockings that are made for members that do not fall into the standard dimensions of off-the-shelf stockings (standard compression garments have been tried and/or ruled out). 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

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:

- Lymphedema, including chronic lymphedema (lasting more than 3 months) and lymphedema as a physical complication of mastectomy

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- 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-phlebitic 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 burns 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 a 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 blood flow 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:**

- 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

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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 recurrence of stasis ulcers that have healed.
- Compression garments 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.
- Compression garments for the legs are considered experimental and investigational for management of delayed-onset muscle soreness.
- Compression garments for the treatment of Long COVID autonomic dysfunction.
- Prophylactic compression garments for the prevention of lower limb lymphedema after gynecological cancer treatment.
- 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

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thromboembolism. They are also not considered reasonable and necessary because they are not primarily medical in nature.

#### Coding Guidelines

Compression burn garments (A6501, A6502, A6503, A6504, A6505, A6506, A6507, A6508, A6509, A6510, A6511, A6512, A6513) are covered when they are used to reduce hypertrophic scarring and joint contractures following a burn injury.

For codes A6531 and A6532, one unit of service is generally for one stocking. However, if a manufacturer has a product consisting of two components which 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 which consists of an unzipped liner and a zippered stocking).

Modifiers A1-A9 are not used with codes A6531, A6532.

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.

#### ICD-10 codes covered if selection criteria are met (not all inclusive):

<b>G81.00 - G81.94</b>	Hemiplegia and hemiparesis
<b>G82.20 - G83.9</b>	Paraplegia (paraparesis), quadriplegia (quadriparesis) and other paralytic syndromes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I80.00-I80.209</li><li>• I80.221-I80.3</li></ul>	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of superficial or deep vessels of lower extremities
<b>I83.001 - I83.899</b>	Varicose veins of lower extremities, with ulcer, with inflammation, with ulcer and inflammation, or with other complications
<b>I87.00 - I87.099</b>	Post thrombotic syndrome
<b>I87.2</b>	Venous insufficiency (chronic)(peripheral)
<b>I89.0 - I89.9</b>	Other noninfective disorders of lymphatic vessels and lymph nodes
<b>I95.1</b>	Orthostatic hypotension
<b>I97.2</b>	Postmastectomy lymphedema syndrome

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<b>I97.89</b>	Other postprocedural complications and disorders of the circulatory system, not elsewhere classified
<b>O12.00 - O12.05</b>	Gestational edema
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>O22.00 - O22.03,</b></li> <li>• <b>O87.4</b></li> </ul>	Varicose veins of lower extremity in pregnancy
<b>O90.89</b>	Other complications of the puerperium, not elsewhere classified [postpartum edema] [not covered for pain during post-natal care]
<b>Q82.0</b>	Hereditary lymphedema
<b>R60.0 - R60.9</b>	Edema, not elsewhere classified
<b>Z74.01</b>	Bed confinement status

### 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

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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 garment, arm, padded, for nighttime use, custom, each
A6524	Gradient compression garment, lower leg and foot, padded, for nighttime use, each
A6525	Gradient compression garment, lower leg and foot, padded, for nighttime use, custom, 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	Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 30-40 mmHg used as a surgical dressing, each.
A6532	Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 40-50 mmHg, used as a surgical dressing, 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, 40mmhg or greater, 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 mmHg or greater, 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 mmHg or greater, each
A6542	Gradient compression stocking custom made
A6544	Gradient compression stocking, garter belt
A6545	Gradient compression wrap, non-elastic, below knee, 30-50 mmHg used as a surgical dressing, each.
A6549	Gradient compression stocking not otherwise specified
A6552	Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 30-40 mmHg, each <b>(effective 1/1/24)</b>
A6553	Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 30-40 mmHg, custom, each
A6554	Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 40 mmHg or greater, each <b>(effective 1/1/24)</b>
A6555	Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 40 mmHg or greater, custom, each
A6556	Gradient compression stocking, thigh length, 18-30 mmHg, custom, each

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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 <b>(effective 1/1/24)</b>
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
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, not-otherwise specified
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



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A6596	Gradient compression bandaging supply, conforming gauze, per linear yard, any width, each
A6597	Gradient compression bandage roll, elastic long stretch, per 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 bandaging supply, high density foam sheet, per 250 square centimeters, 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
L8010	Breast prosthesis, mastectomy sleeve

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.

#### 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



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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.

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 and Northwood will use the applicable state requirements to determine required quantity limit guidelines.

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.

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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		

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06	12-08-11	Annual Review. Added code A4465 (Non-elastic binder for extremity). Added References to Policy	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	Dec. 2011	
07	12-03-12	Annual review – no changes.	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	Dec. 2012	
08	12-11-13	Annual review. No changes.	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri		
09	12-1-14	Annual Review. Added burn garments to this policy and removed them from the surgical dressing policy.	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri		
10	12-16-15	Annual Review. No changes	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	12-16-15	
11	12-19-16	Annual Review. No Changes.	Lisa Wojno	Dr. B. Almasri	12-19-16	
12	11-17-17	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	11-17-17	
13	1-16-18	Revised quantity limits of A6545 to reflect 4 support garments per year and removed 1 per 6 months. Removed surgical dressing guidelines.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	1-16-18	
14	11-19-18	Annual review. No changes except for Jan. 2018 changes.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	11-19-18	
15	11-13-19	Annual review. Compression garments for the legs are considered experimental	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	11-13-19	11-13-19

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		and investigational for management of delayed-onset muscle soreness. Added BCN of MI to reference list.				
16	11-13-20	Annual Review. Added 'unless supported by specific State Medicaid guidelines'	Lisa Wojno	Dr. C. Lerchin	11-13-20	
17	11-12-21	Annual Review. Added NCD/LCD verbiage to "Important Notes".	Carol Dimech/Susan Glomb	Dr. C. Lerchin	11-12-21	
18	11-23-22	Annual review. Updated qualifying condition bullet list for clarity. Added custom-fitted/custom-made to description. Added ICD-10 codes, coding and references.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	11-23-22	11-23-22
19	11-22-23	Annual review. Added HCPCS codes A6552, A6554 and A6583 per CMS, effective 01-01-24.	Carol Dimech/Susan Glomb	Dr. C. Lerchin	11-22-23	11-22-23
20	4-17-24	Added to ICD-10 list, added BCC to reference list.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	4-17-24	4-17-24
21	4-25-24	Added new reference BCBS Excellus; added HCPCS codes to existing list.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	4-25-24	4-25-24
22	11-21-24	Annual review. No further changes.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	11-21-24	11-21-24
23	11-17-25	Annual review. Added to exclusion list: Long COVID autonomic dysfunction, prophylactic compression garments for the prevention of lower limb lymphedema after	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	11-17-25	11-17-25



## Medical Policy



### Pressure Gradient Garments and Support Stockings

		gynecological cancer treatment.				
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