

# 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"> <li>• If a product excludes coverage for a service, it is not covered, and medical policy criteria do not apply.</li> <li>• If a commercial product (including an Essential Plan or Child Health Plus product), medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• If a Medicare HMO-Dual Special Needs Program (DSNP) product DOES NOT cover a specific service, please refer to the Medicaid Product coverage line.</li> </ul>

## POLICY STATEMENT

- I. Prescription custom-made or custom-fitted surgical stockings/graduated-compression garments, such as Jobst, Sigvaris, Circaid, Juzo, ReidSleeve, Sigvaris, Belisse, and the SolarisTribute, are considered **medically appropriate** for the following indications:
  - A. Venous insufficiency;
  - B. Ulceration due to chronic venous insufficiency;
  - C. Varicose veins;
  - D. Phlebitis/Thrombophlebitis;
  - E. Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) prophylaxis during pregnancy and postpartum, or immobilization due to surgery, trauma or debilitation;
  - F. Orthostatic hypotension;
  - G. Chronic Lymphedema;
  - H. Intractable lymphedema of the upper extremity subsequent 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.

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

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

### **POLICY GUIDELINES**

Graduated compression hosiery (e.g., TEDs and support hose) with pressures less than 30 mmHg are available without physician prescription/order and are **ineligible for coverage** under most Health Plan contracts.

### **DESCRIPTION**

Surgical stockings/graduated compression garments are custom-made or custom-fitted support for the lower extremities. They are available by physician prescription/order only, and are for use in situations where they can prevent thrombi formation and severe pitting edema. They are ordered by the level of compression that they provide (e.g., 18-30 mmHg to 40-50 mmHg). Surgical stockings/graduated compression garments are usually indicated following surgery or stroke, during pregnancy, for varicose veins, and occasionally in other special situations. Graduated compression garments can be prescribed for chronic lymphedema (lymphedema that has been present for greater than three months).

Heavy-elastic surgical stockings with compression less than 30 mmHg, such as TEDs, provide more support than support hose, but are available without a physician's prescription/order.

Support hose are pantyhose that are widely available without a physician's prescription/order.

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 Belisse 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.

### **RATIONALE**

There are a number of medical conditions for which GCS are considered standard practice. These conditions include, but are not limited to:

- I. complications of venous insufficiency with or without stasis ulcers,
- II. treatment of chronic lymphedema, or
- III. postural hypotension.

The American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP) guidelines for prevention of venous thrombosis recommend that:

- I. mechanical methods (including GCS) for prevention of DVT be used primarily in patients who are at high risk of bleeding or as an adjunct to anticoagulant-based prophylaxis, and
- II. long-distance travelers who are at high risk for venous thromboembolism (VTE) may benefit from the use of properly fitted GCS for prevention of DVT.

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Conservative medical practices that may be used in the management of varicose veins include leg elevation, analgesia for symptom relief, avoidance of prolonged periods of standing, and compression therapy. The use of custom-fitted compression stockings with pressure gradients is often attempted prior to more invasive procedures. The stockings should be put on when first arising in the morning, preferably before getting out of bed.

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.

### 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
A6530 (NCB)	Gradient compression stocking; below knee, 18-30 mmHg, each
A6531	below knee, 30-40 mmHg, each
A6532	below knee, 40-50 mmHg, each
A6533 (NCB)	thigh length, 18-30 mmHg, each
A6534	thigh length, 30-40 mmHg, each
A6535	thigh length, 40-50 mmHg, each
A6536 (NCB)	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, each
A6539 (NCB)	waist length, 18-30 mmHg, each
A6540	waist length, 30-40 mmHg, each
A6541	waist length, 40-50 mmHg, each
A6544 (NMN)	garter belt
A6545	Gradient compression wrap non-elastic, below knee, 30-50 mmHg, each
A6549	Gradient compression stocking/sleeve, not otherwise specified
L8010	Breast prosthesis, mastectomy sleeve

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<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
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)
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)

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Code	Description
O22.50-O22.53	Cerebral venous thrombosis in pregnancy (code range)
O22.90-O22.93	Venous complication in pregnancy (code range)
Q82.0	Hereditary lymphedema
O87.0-O87.9	Thrombophlebitis in the puerperium (code range)
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

### REFERENCES

\*New York State Consolidated Insurance Laws, Section 4303 (x) (1).

Olsen JHH, Öberg S, Rosenberg J. The effect of compression stocking on leg edema and discomfort during a 3-hour flight: A randomized controlled trial. Eur J Intern Med 2019;62:54-57.

\*Rabe E, et al. Indications for medical compression stockings in venous and lymphatic disorders: a evidenced-based consensus statement. Phlebology 2018 Apr;33(3);163-184.

\*Sachdeva A, Dalton M, Lees T. Graduated compression stockings for prevention of deep vein thrombosis. Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2018;11(11):CD001484.

\*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 no National Coverage Determination (NCD) or Local Coverage Determination (LCD) for Surgical Stockings and Compression Garments. Please refer to the following NCD for Durable Medical Equipment Reference List website for Medicare Members: <http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/ncd-details.aspx?NCDId=190&ncdver=2&bc=AgAAgAAAAAAA&>.