

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington

Clinical Review Criteria Compression Garments – Stockings/Sleeves

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Criteria For Medicare Members

Source	Policy
CMS Coverage Manuals	None
National Coverage Determinations (NCD)	None
Local Coverage Determinations (LCD)	Surgical Dressings (L33831) Lymphedema Compression Treatment (Must have diagnosis of I89.0, I97.2, I97.89, Q82.0)
Local Coverage Article	Surgical Dressings (A54563) External Breast Prosthesis (A52478) - (Addresses L8010 A mastectomy sleeve (L8010) is denied as noncovered, since it does not meet the definition of a prosthesis) Lymphedema Compression Treatment Items—Correct Coding and Billing (Must have diagnosis of I89.0, I97.2, I97.89, Q82.0) Standard Documentation Article (A55426)
MLN Matters Article	Lymphedema Compression Treatments Items: Implementation

For Non-Medicare Members

Kaiser Permanente has elected to use the Graduated Compression Stockings/Sleeves (KP-0336) MCG* for medical necessity determinations. For access to the MCG Clinical Guidelines criteria, please see the MCG Guideline Index through the provider portal under Quick Access.

Elastic stockings are generally stockings of 18-20 mm or less and can be purchased over the counter.

*The MCG are proprietary and cannot be published and/or distributed. However, on an individual member basis, Kaiser Permanente can share a copy of the specific criteria document used to make a utilization management decision. If one of your patients is being reviewed using these criteria, you may request a copy of the criteria by calling the Kaiser Permanente Clinical Review staff at 1-800-289-1363.

If requesting this service, please send the following documentation to support medical necessity:

- Last 12 months of clinical notes from requesting provider &/or specialist

The following information was used in the development of this document and is provided as background only. It is provided for historical purposes and does not necessarily reflect the most current published literature. When significant new articles are published that impact treatment option, Kaiser Permanente will review as needed. This information is not to be used as coverage criteria. Please only refer to the criteria listed above for coverage determinations.

Background

Compression garments are usually made of elastic material and are used to promote venous or lymphatic circulation. Compression garments worn on the legs can help prevent deep vein thrombosis and reduce edema and are useful in a variety of peripheral vascular conditions. Compression garments can come in varying degrees of compression. The higher degrees require a physician's prescription.

Evidence and Source Documents

2/12/1986: LITERATURE SEARCH

Articles: The use of JOBST products for the treatment of burns is medically appropriate.

12/31/1999: LITERATURE SEARCH

Articles: Effective Health Care, NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, University of York, August 1997, Volume 3:4, ISSN: 0965-0288.

Twenty randomized controlled trials evaluated different forms of compression bandaging on venous ulcer healing in a wide range of age groups. Two of these incorporated economic evaluations, 2 compared compression stockings with compression bandages and 2 evaluated intermittent pneumatic compression. Overall, the quality of trials is poor. Six RCT's assessed whether compression therapy was better than no compression. These showed that compression provided by either Unna's boot, 2-layer, 4 layer or short stretch bandages improve healing rates compared to treatment using no compression. One study showed that compression was more cost effective because of faster healing rates saving nursing time. High compression showed the best healing rates. A combination of 2 compression stockings has been shown to increase the rate of healing compared to a short stretch bandage.

Compression stockings have been found to be more effective than drug therapy in the prevention of recurrence of leg ulcers.

White Paper - Kaiser on Benefits of Compression Therapy:

Venous ulcers can be healed, and recurrence prevented through the use of compression therapy (not TED hose). Recommend coverage of two pair a year and patients must wear all day every day. Compression therapy can prevent serious complications of venous insufficiency and reduce treatment costs.

Federal Post-Mastectomy Reconstructive Surgery Mandate: December 21, 1998 AAHP memo:

The Federal post-mastectomy reconstructive surgery mandate was contained in the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 that was included in the FY99 omnibus appropriations act (P.L., 105-277, enacted October 21, 1998). Under the new law most plans and insurers that provide coverage for medical and surgical benefits in connection with a mastectomy are required to provide reconstructive surgery benefits. Coverage includes reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy was performed, surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce symmetrical appearance, and prostheses and treatment of physical complications at all stages of the mastectomy, including lymphedemas.

Yasuhara MD, Hiroshi et al., A Study of the Advantages of Elastic Stockings for Leg Lymphedema, *International Angiology*, Vol 15:3, 272-277, September 1996 See [Evidence Table](#)

G. Bertelli, et al, An analysis of prognostic factors in response to conservative treatment of postmastectomy lymphedema, *Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics*, Volume 175: 455-460, November 1992 See [Evidence Table](#)

Bunce, Ian H et al, Post-mastectomy Lymphedema Treatment and Measurement, *Medical Journal of Australia*, Vol 161: 125-128, July 18, 1994 See [Evidence Table](#)

Applicable Codes

Compression Burn Garments

Considered Medically Necessary when criteria in the applicable policy statements listed above are met:

CPT® or HCPC Codes	Description
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

Surgical Dressing Compression Garments

Considered Medically Necessary when criteria in the applicable policy statements listed above are met:

CPT® or HCPC Codes	Description
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
A6545	Gradient compression wrap, non-elastic, below knee, 30-50 mmhg, used as a surgical dressing, each

Compression Garments

Considered Medically Necessary when criteria in the applicable policy statements listed above are met:

† not covered by Medicare

CPT® or HCPC Codes	Description
A6530	Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 18-30 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 mmhg 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
A6544	Gradient compression stocking, garter belt
A6549	Gradient compression garment, not otherwise specified
L8010†	Breast prosthesis, mastectomy sleeve

Stockings/Sleeves

Considered Medically Necessary when criteria in the applicable policy statements listed above are met:

CPT® or HCPC Codes	Description
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
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
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
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 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

***Note:** Codes may not be all-inclusive. Deleted codes and codes not in effect at the time of service may not be covered.

**To verify authorization requirements for a specific code by plan type, please use the [Pre-authorization Code Check](#).

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Date Created	Date Reviewed	Date Last Revised
12/31/1999	08/03/2010 ^{MDCRPC} , 06/07/2011 ^{MDCRPC} , 04/03/2012 ^{MDCRPC} , 02/05/2013 ^{MDCRPC} , 06/04/2013 ^{MDCRPC} , 12/13/2013 ^{MPC} , 10/07/2014 ^{MPC} , 06/07/2016 ^{MPC} , 04/04/2017 ^{MPC} , 02/06/2018 ^{MPC} , 01/08/2019 ^{MPC} , 01/07/2020 ^{MPC} , 01/05/2021 ^{MPC} , 01/04/2022 ^{MPC} , 01/10/2023 ^{MPC} , 01/09/2024 ^{MPC} , 01/14/2025 ^{MPC}	08/09/2024

^{MDCRPC} Medical Director Clinical Review and Policy Committee

^{MPC} Medical Policy Committee

Date Last Revised	Description
07/28/2015	Codes added and description of elastic stockings
08/26/2015	Added new LCD link
01/27/2016	Added Medicare coverage article
10/03/2017	Revised criteria to include indication: <i>Documented history of venous stasis ulcer within the last 2 years</i>
07/20/2023	Added Medicare Coverage article for External Breast Prostheses as this addresses mastectomy sleeve non-coverage.
12/27/2023	Updated Medicare links related to new DME benefit category for Lymphedema Compression Treatment Garments. Updated coding section with new applicable codes effective 1/1/2024 and description updates.
5/22/2024	Updated Medicare Links
08/09/2024	Added new HCPC codes for Stockings/Sleeves, Effective 1/1/2024