



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)
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)

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

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
A6530	Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 18-30 mm Hg, each
A6531	Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 30-40 mm Hg, each
A6532	Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 40-50 mm Hg, each
A6533	Gradient compression stocking, thigh length, 18-30 mm Hg, each
A6534	Gradient compression stocking, thigh length, 30-40 mm Hg, each

A6535	Gradient compression stocking, thigh length, 40-50 mm Hg, each
A6536	Gradient compression stocking, full-length/chap style, 18-30 mm Hg, each
A6537	Gradient compression stocking, full-length/chap style, 30-40 mm Hg, each
A6538	Gradient compression stocking, full-length/chap style, 40-50 mm Hg, each
A6539	Gradient compression stocking, waist length, 18-30 mm Hg, each
A6540	Gradient compression stocking, waist length, 30-40 mm Hg, each
A6541	Gradient compression stocking, waist length, 40-50 mm Hg, each
A6544	Gradient compression stocking, garter belt
A6545	Gradient compression wrap, nonelastic, below knee, 30-50 mm Hg, each
A6549	Gradient compression stocking/sleeve, not otherwise specified
L8010	Breast prosthesis, mastectomy sleeve

***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](#).

CPT codes, descriptions and materials are copyrighted by the American Medical Association (AMA). HCPCS codes, descriptions and materials are copyrighted by Centers for Medicare Services (CMS).

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}	7/20/2023

^{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.