



Documenting for Lymphedema Treatment Act Products

1. Lymphedema ICD-10 Coding – list one as a Primary Diagnosis; do not list other edema codes
 - I89.0 Other Lymphedema Acquired
 - Q82.0 Primary Lymphedema
 - I97.2 Post Mastectomy Lymphedema Syndrome
 - I97.89 Other post-surgical lymphedema

2. Document Stages of Lymphedema for each affected body part

International Society of Lymphology (ISL) Staging OR John Hopkins Staging

- **ISL Stage 0:** At risk for developing lymphedema but with no signs or symptoms present
- **ISL Stage 1:** Swelling that can come and go intermittently. Elevation can provide relief and some reduction.
- **ISL Stage 2:** Skin changes/fibrosis. Does not reduce well with elevation
- **ISL Stage 3:** Significant skin changes. Limb shape significantly altered due to lymphedema

- **John Hopkins Stage 1:** Abnormal flow in the lymphatic system. No signs or symptoms
- **John Hopkins Stage 2:** Accumulation of fluid with swelling
- **John Hopkins Stage 3:** Permanent swelling that does not resolve with elevation
- **John Hopkins Stage 4:** Elephantiasis (large deformed limb), skin thickening with “wart-like” growth and extensive scarring

3. Document Co-Morbidities Associated with Lymphedema

- Obesity
- Morbid Obesity
- Severe Morbid Obesity
- Venous Insufficiency
- Wounds
- Cancer
- Etc.

4. Lymphedema presentation MUST be properly documented with correct terminology

- Fibrosis
- Hyperkeratosis
- Papillomatosis
- Cuffing at the ankle
- Lobe formation
- Irregular limb shape
- Lipodermatosclerosis (inverted champagne bottle)
- Hyperplasia
- Lymphorrhea/weeping

5. Document function and social/living status in order to justify donning/doffing aides

- Ambulation/Mobility
- ADL function including lower body dressing (shoes, socks)
- Endurance
- ROM/Flexibility issues (document causes)
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6. Home Management Plan

- Exercise
- Manual Therapy
- Skin care
- Compression garments

7. Compression Garments & Accessories needed for home management of lymphedema

***Medicare requires the information below to be included for each product**

- Day Time **OR** Night Time Gradient Compression Garment
- Elastic **OR** In-elastic
- Standard (Ready to Wear; Off the Shelf) **OR** Custom (Made to Measure)
- **Body Part** – Left, Right, Bilateral
- **Style** – Arm sleeve, glove, gauntlet, neck/head, torso/shoulder
Knee high, thigh high, biker short, capri, pantyhose
- **Compression Class (Standard)** 20-30mmHg, 30-40mmHg, 40-50mmHg
Compression Class (Custom) 15-21mmHg, 23-32mmHg, 34-46mmHg
- **Accessories** – Silicone band, t-heel, knee comfort zone, pull up loops, donning aid, etc.
Accessories are billed with HCPCS code A6593 as separate line items. Documentation is required for the medical need for each accessory.
- **Quantity** – DAYTIME gradient compression garment (elastic support)
1, 2 or 3 per each affected body part every 6 months
- **Quantity** – DAYTIME Wrap with adjustable straps
1, 2 or 3 per each affected body part every 6 months
- **Quantity** – NIGHTTIME gradient compression garment
1 or 2 per each affected body part every 2 years

8. For CUSTOM-MADE GARMENTS and ACCESSORIES, an explanation as to WHY they are required must be documented. Examples:

- Does not fit Standard (Ready to Wear; Off the Shelf) sizing

- Limb volume and patient's history of refilling quickly while ambulating requires a custom, flat knit fabric to contain the limb
- Chronic Fibrosis requires a custom, flat knit fabric to help maintain the limb and prevent further fibrosis and risk of cellulitis/lymphangitis infections
- Chronic dorsal swelling can only be managed with a custom, flat knit glove
- Cone shaped limb (proximal portion of limb is significantly greater than distal limb) requires a custom, flat knit fabric to fit adequately and maintain the limb circumferences.
- Shelf at ankle requires custom, flat knit fabric to lift and conform the chronic swelling at the ankle and prevent a tourniquet.
- Skin/tissue has folds or contours requiring a custom, flat knit fabric (note location) and is unable to tolerate the fabric composition of a standard garment, requires custom flat knit for containment, etc.

9. Narrative Documentation

Example: Patient requires custom flat knit grade II compression thigh high due to moderate fibrosis, medial thigh lobe formation, morbid obesity with irregular limb shape. The patient has tried a standard fit garment in the past but was unable to tolerate due to poor fit

Example: Patient requires layered garments for her stage 2 lymphedema right lower leg including a 10mmHg compression liner with a 20-30mmHg standard fit knee high due to the patients limited grip strength caused by arthritis in her hands.

Example: Pt requires a tribute nighttime garment due to stage 2 lymphedema with moderate fibrosis and moderate hyperplasia of the lower leg.

Example: Pt requires a donning/doffing device due to chronic back problems with surgery x 2 lower back and inability to reach his feet.

Check out International Lymphedema and Wound Training Institute (ILWTI) for course information. www.ilwti.com or email Brandy McKeown OTR/L, CLT-LANA, CLWT (CEO ILWTI) for more information brandymckeown@ilwti.com