

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48

Title: Insurance Coverage For Compression Stockings

Introduced by: Eric Walton for the Medical Student Section

Original Author: Thomas LaRouere, Elaina Molter, Alexandra Ortiz, Neil Patel, Blake Sanford, Elizabeth Scott, AJ Shadrach, Eric Walton, and Erik Winterholler

Referred to: Reference Committee A

House Action: **APPROVE**

Whereas, venous disorders of the leg constitute a large financial burden (\$2.5-\$3.5 billion annually for venous stasis ulcers alone<sup>1</sup>) on the health care system and produce substantial morbidity rates, and

Whereas, compression stockings have been shown to prevent deep vein thrombosis, to reduce symptoms of various venous disorders including varicose veins and phlebitis, and to prevent venous stasis ulcers<sup>2</sup>, and

Whereas, Medicare currently covers compression stockings only when open venous stasis ulcers are already present<sup>3</sup>, and

Whereas, the over-the-counter cost of gradient compression stockings can be up to or exceeding sixty-five dollars, and

Whereas, patient non-compliance with compression stockings for chronic venous disease may be as high as 63 percent due to factors such as cost and difficulty or lack of knowledge of how to apply the stockings<sup>4</sup>, and

Whereas, existing research suggests patient compliance with compression stocking therapy increases when physicians offer education regarding venous disease and the use of compression stockings<sup>5</sup>, and

Whereas, Michigan Medicaid currently covers compression stockings, if deemed medically necessary by a physician for lymphedema, chronic venous insufficiency, thrombophlebitis, burns or post-surgical care<sup>6</sup>; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) ask our AMA to engage all relevant stakeholders in ensuring unconditional Medicare compensation for gradient compression stockings as prescribed by a physician under the durable medical equipment portion of coverage, including for cases of preventative use and for patients without a present venous stasis ulcer.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

<sup>1</sup> Fife C, Walker D, Thomson B, Carter M. Limitations of Daily Living Activities in Patients With Venous Stasis Ulcers Undergoing Compression Bandaging: Problems With the Concept of Self-bandaging. *Wounds a Compend Clin Res Pract.* 2007;19(10):255-257. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25942507>.

<sup>2</sup> Jones NA, Webb PJ, Rees RI, Kakkar VV. A physiological study of elastic compression stockings in venous disorders of the leg. *British Journal of Surgery.* 1980 Aug 1;67(8):569-72. doi: 10.1002/bjs.1800670814.

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Change Request 2739. Coverage of Compression Garments in the Treatment of Venous Stasis Ulcers. June 2003. <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/AB03090.pdf>.

---

<sup>4</sup> Raju S, Hollis K, Neglen P. Use of Compression Stockings in Chronic Venous Disease: Patient Compliance and Efficacy. *Ann Vasc Surg.* 2007;21(6):790-795. doi:10.1016/j.avsg.2007.07.014.

<sup>5</sup> Bouman, AC, et al. Eliciting patients' preferences for elastic compression stocking therapy after deep vein thrombosis: potential for improving compliance. *Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis*, vol. 14, no. 3, 2016, pp. 510-7. PubMed, doi: 10.1111/jth.13228.

<sup>6</sup> "Clarification of Coverage Criteria for Pressure Gradient Garments and Surgical Stockings" Bulletin MSA 5-12, Medical Services Administration. Michigan Department of Community Health, 2005. [www.michigan.gov/documents/MSA-05-12\\_116733\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/MSA-05-12_116733_7.pdf).