



## THE LYMPHEDEMA DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT COST SAVING ACT HR 2499

### OVERVIEW:

LYMPHEDEMA is a medical condition which results in a swelling of any part of the body when the lymphatic vessels and/or lymph nodes are damaged or are inadequate. Lymphedema affects an estimated 1.5 to 3 million Medicare beneficiaries who currently receive sub-standard treatment from Medicare according to the current medical standard of care. Medicare is spending hundreds of millions of dollars every year in hospitalizations for largely preventable lymphedema-related CELLULITIS.

The Lymphedema Treatment Act would offer coverage for Medicare beneficiaries with lymphedema from any cause. It would provide the medically recommended protocols (compression bandages, garments and supplies used daily in the treatment and management of lymphedema) and reduce the incidence of lymphedema-related infection. Although this legislation relates specifically to a change in Medicare law, it would also have the almost certain effect of ensuring all private insurance policies follow suit.

### BILL GOALS:

- to provide diagnosis and treatment of individuals with and at risk for lymphedema according to current medical treatment standards, including manual lymph drainage, compression bandages, garments, devices, and exercise;
- to provide for lymphedema patient education in the procedures for self-treatment so as to transfer the treatment from the clinical to the home setting;
- to encourage patient self-treatment plan adherence by providing necessary medical supplies for use at home;
- to reduce total healthcare costs through avoidance of periodic infections, pain and disabilities resulting from this medical condition.

This bill is projected to save hundreds of millions of dollars every year in avoidance of costs of treating preventable lymphedema-related cellulitis. This is a quality of care issue affecting insured patients and is complementary to healthcare access issues.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Please contact your members of Congress by using the submission forms at [www.LymphedemaTreatmentAct.org](http://www.LymphedemaTreatmentAct.org). There you will also find many other simple ways you can support the passage of this bill and ensure that lymphedema sufferers get the medically necessary treatment coverage they need and deserve.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LYMPHEDEMA TREATMENT ACT:  
[LymphedemaTreatmentAct.org](http://LymphedemaTreatmentAct.org) | [info@LymphedemaTreatmentAct.org](mailto:info@LymphedemaTreatmentAct.org)

Additional information about lymphedema and its treatment can be found on the "What is Lymphedema" and "Patient Resources" pages of the Lymphedema Treatment Act Website.