

Types of Lymphedema Compression Supplies

The Lymphedema Treatment Act (HR930/S497) categorizes these supplies as follows:

(A) Multilayer Compression Bandaging Systems

- Compression bandaging is used during the acute “reduction” phase of treatment and is initially applied by an Occupational or Physical Therapist. In some cases the therapist also teaches the patient how to self-apply the compression bandages, which are used until maximum reduction is achieved, and in some cases thereafter at night.
- When utilizing compression bandaging it is necessary to have two sets - one is worn while the other is laundered.
- Approximate cost of bandaging supplies are \$30/arm and \$75/leg, however cost varies depending on the size of the affected body part(s). Note: these are specialized “short stretch” bandages, not Ace-style wraps, which are “long stretch.”



(B) Custom-Fit or Standard-Fit Gradient Compression Garments

- Upon completion of the acute phase of treatment the patient is fitted for a compression garment to maintain the reduction achieved, and begins the lifelong management phase.
- Compression garments are the keystone of lymphedema treatment, without which no other component of treatment provides any lasting benefit.
- Pricing and utilization details provided on the accompanying document.



(C) Non-Elastic and Low-Elastic Compression Garments and Wraps, and Directional Flow Pads

- Non-Elastic and Low-Elastic Compression Garments and Wraps are alternatives to Multilayer Compression Bandaging Systems and Gradient Compression Garments. They are prescribed when a patient's condition is such that treatment and/or management is not possible using compression bandaging and/or compression garments.
- Directional Flow Pads are used in combination with other compression supplies when needed, to target specific areas.
- Cost is variable depending on the specific product, and the life span for these supplies is generally one year or greater.

