



## **The Difference Between Prescription Medical-Grade Lymphedema Compression Supplies And Over-the-Counter Compression Products**

The Lymphedema Treatment Act (H.R. 930 / S. 497) will provide a Medicare benefit category for coverage of the physician prescribed compression supplies used in the treatment and management of lymphedema.

**Both custom and standard fit medical-grade lymphedema compression garments differ *extensively* from non-prescription garments available at a local pharmacy.**

Compression garments from pharmacies are almost exclusively for the lower extremities and are not indicated for the management of lymphedema, but rather are used for minor fluid retention or venous stasis.

The medical-grade lymphedema compression supplies included in the the Lymphedema Treatment Act have a number of other distinguishing features including:

- True gradient compression (rather than localized areas of higher compression)
- Higher overall levels of compression and a much wider array of compression strengths
- Superior durability and longevity
- Available for any part of the body that could be affected by lymphedema, not just the lower extremities
- Suitable for use in patients with wounds or those predisposed to infection
- Sold by Medicare Accredited DMEPOS suppliers<sup>1</sup>
- Require specially trained and certified fitters for custom garments
- Include supplies used in the initial and periodic decongestive phases of therapy, as well as for ongoing management

**The compression therapy supplies outlined in the Lymphedema Treatment Act, both custom and standard fit, will require a physician's prescription.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/DMEPOS Accreditation.html>