

Lymphedema Pump

Lymphedema is the swelling of subcutaneous tissues due to the accumulation of excessive lymph fluid resulting from impairment of the normal clearing function of the lymphatic system. Examples of causes of lymphedema are: tumor obstruction of lymph nodes or post radiation fibrosis.

Pneumatic devices are covered in the home setting if the patient has undergone conservative treatment for at least 4 weeks without improvement. Conservative treatment must include elevation, use of appropriate compression bandage or garment and exercise.

Pneumatic compression devices are covered in the home setting for the treatment of chronic venous insufficiency (CVI) of the lower extremities only if the patient has one or more venous stasis ulcer(s) which have failed to heal after a 6 month trial of conservative therapy directed by the treating physician. The trial of conservative therapy must include a compression bandage system or compression garment, appropriate dressings for the wound, exercise, and elevation of the limb.

Coverage and Payment Policy

This service requires prior authorization.

The prescribing provider must submit the following documentation:

1. Supporting diagnosis for cause of lymphedema.
2. Examination by requesting clinician within 30 days of request for the lymphedema pump.
3. Clinician attestation that patient or care giver is capable of managing the device.
4. Recommended pressure, frequency and duration information.

Supplies used in conjunction with the lymphedema pump are covered.

Approved:  Associate Medical Director
Jerry Fingerut, MD

Date: 28 December 2015

Reviewed: _____

Revised: _____