Compression garment selection, fitting and monitoring procedure
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For more information contact:
Allied Health Professions’ Office of Queensland, Health Service Clinical Innovation Division, Department of Health, PO Box 2368, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006, email allied_health_advisory@health.qld.gov.au, phone 07 3328 9298.


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Provision of clinical products/consumables in outpatient settings health service directive

Compression garment selection, fitting and monitoring procedure

1. Purpose

This procedure describes the processes for Hospital and Health Services to implement the *Guideline for compression garments for adults with malignancy related lymphoedema: Eligibility, supply and costing*. This procedure relates specifically to the process of patients/consumers accessing new or replacement garments from their local health service.

2. Scope

This procedure applies to all Hospital and Health Services. This procedure specifically applies to Hospital and Health Service employees who prescribe compression garments to adults with malignancy related lymphoedema and the facilities which provide these garments and/or which are responsible for the purchase of these garments.

The procedure does not include recommendations regarding the clinical care of clients with lymphoedema beyond the selection and supply of compression garments.

3. Supporting documents

Authorising policy and standard/s

*Provision of clinical products/consumables in outpatient settings health service directive*

Procedures, guidelines and protocols

*Guideline for compression garments for adults with malignancy related lymphoedema: Eligibility, supply and costing*

Forms and templates

- Lymphoedema assessment for stable established malignancy-related lymphoedema template
- Circumferential upper and lower limb lymphoedema measurements templates
- Lymphoedema compression garment provision record template
- Provision of lymphoedema compression garments prescription/order form.

4. Related documents


5. Procedure process

Eligibility criteria

**Inclusion criteria:** Patients that meet all of the eligibility criteria under Section 3 of the guideline:

- have been assessed as having malignancy (cancer) related lymphoedema
- have a current compression garment prescription from an occupational therapist, physiotherapist, podiatrist, registered nurse or doctor who has been trained to measure patients for garments to manage lymphoedema
- are aged over 16 years
- hold one of the following cards:
  - Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card
  - Centrelink Health Care Card
- are a permanent resident of Queensland
- are Medicare eligible.

This is a minimum eligibility standard – some health services may provide garments for a broader group of clients as per 3.1.2 of the guideline. For clients not meeting the eligibility criteria written information should be provided to the client / family about how to obtain a compression garment including vendor or supplier details, and any available information on ordering process.

**Care provision**

- If relevant, a patient with a current a episode of care requiring compression garment prescription will have the costs of the products/consumables (garments) met by the treating Hospital and Health Service/Cancer Centre as part of that episode of care (See note 1).
- On discharge from a Hospital and Health Service Cancer Centre or Lymphoedema Service care should be transferred to the local service, i.e. the facility closest to the patient’s residence, through a documented referral process. The referral should include details of the most recent medical referral, clinical prescription, garments provided, and the recommended interval for next review.
- When a patient/consumer is transferred or referred from one service to another, the receiving clinician will organise an assessment for compression garment prescription, fit and review with the patient/consumer at an interval negotiated (and documented in the referral) with the referring clinician. The local service sources and supplies future compression garments.
- Clinical prescriptions for lymphoedema garments, from non QH Hospital and Health Service providers shall be accepted if the patient eligibility criteria are met. Non QH Hospital and Health Service providers are to send the prescription/order form to the local service to be actioned according to the local intake process.
• Fit, education and review of the garment is the responsibility of the prescribing clinician (public or private).

• Where assessment identifies the patient’s presentation does not meet the criteria for ‘stable lymphoedema’ it is the responsibility of the clinician to advise and assist the patient/consumer to access a service that can meet the patient’s clinical needs.

Supply

• Supply of the compression garment to the patient/consumer by the local service will not be influenced by whether the client has a current episode of the care in the department supplying the garment or with another provider.

• Supplying the sourced compression garment to the patient/consumer may include:
  – providing the garment directly to the patient as part of a clinical consultation undertaken in a Queensland Hospital and Health Service
  – providing the garment to the referring non Queensland Health public health service provider.

• All clinicians should prescribe ready-to-wear garments as a first preference where the clinician considers ready-to-wear option to provide the same or better treatment effect to a custom made garment.

• Garments are to be selected from the Standing Order Agreement (SOA QH 742) detailed in the prescription/order form for compression garment provision.

• Patients/consumers will be entitled to two garments (per body part) provided every six months. Clients may be required to self-fund garments beyond this entitlement according to eligibility criteria at the local Hospital and Health Service.

• Where a custom garment is required, ONLY 1 should be ordered in the first instance. When fitted and clinically assessed as suitable, a second garment can be ordered.

• Patients without a primary diagnosis of malignancy related lymphoedema including those for prophylactic or travel are not entitled to the supply of compression garments.

• To ensure ongoing care and management patients/consumers shall return to the referring health care professional to fit the garment provide education and organise a review. A minimum six monthly review is recommended.

Costs

Unless otherwise determined by the Hospital and Health Service providing the compression garment, ongoing direct costs (beyond the initial period following discharge) related to the garment shall be borne by the “residential” Hospital and Health Service of the patient/consumer.

Notes in relation to process:

(1) A client may potentially have a current episode of care for malignancy-related lymphoedema away from their local service if they are:
  • accessing cancer treatment in another location and it is more convenient to access lymphoedema care in the same facility (e.g. client has relocated to
Cairns for duration of radiotherapy and accesses lymphoedema services through Cairns Hospital allied health

- do not have stable lymphoedema and/or require more intensive or more complex care requirements than are available through local services such as treatment with a lymphoedema therapist.

6. **Review**

This procedure is due for review on: July 2015

Date of last review: Not applicable

Supersedes: New procedure

7. **Business area contact**

Allied Health Professions' Office of Queensland
8. **Definitions of terms used in the policy and supporting documents**

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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition / explanation / details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment for compression garment</td>
<td>Means undertaking a process of subjective and objective information gathering for the purpose of decision-making regarding the sourcing and supply of a compression garment. The minimum components of the assessment for compression garment are described in <em>Compression garment selection, fitting and monitoring education resource</em>, Section 1: Assessment Module and includes history taking with a focus on changes in signs and symptoms since the previous supply of a garment including the presence of contra-indications and precautions, information in the clinical prescription and client reports of tolerance / issues with current garment, and on objective assessment of the affected limb including circumferential measurements using a standardised measurement process. NOTE: An assessment for compression garment is not the same as a comprehensive lymphoedema assessment undertaken for the purpose of diagnosis and development of a comprehensive lymphoedema intervention plan. A comprehensive lymphoedema assessment should form part of an episode of care for malignancy-related lymphoedema.</td>
<td>Adapted from <em>Guidelines for writing clinical task instructions</em>, 2014 <a href="http://www.health.qld.gov.au/ahwac/html/modcare.asp">http://www.health.qld.gov.au/ahwac/html/modcare.asp</a> Queensland Health. 2014. <em>Compression garment, selection, fitting and monitoring education resources</em></td>
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## Term | Definition / explanation / details | Source
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Non Queensland Health Hospital and Health Service providers are responsible for providing prescriptions that are current. | h-hsdgdl-030-1.pdf
### Education
Means to provide information required to allow a client or carer to optimise benefit and minimise risks associated with wearing the supplied compression garment. Education also includes information on the care of the garment and must include information and practice of donning and doffing the garment including relevant aids. Education should be broadly consistent with the Lymphoedema compression garment patient information handout and Compression garment selection, fitting and monitoring education resource, Section 1– http://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/ahwac/content/compression-garm2.htm
### Episode of care
In the context of this document means the client has a current episode of care for malignancy-related lymphoedema in a Queensland Health facility. An episode of care is a phase of treatment. An episode of care ends when the principal clinical intent changes or when the patient is formally separated from the facility. An episode of care for malignancy-related lymphoedema may include comprehensive lymphoedema assessment and interventions such as bandaging, massage, LASER and exercise programs. This care should be lead by a lymphoedema therapist. However the specific service model used to deliver this care is determined by each Hospital and Health Service with due regard to clinical governance, quality and safety.
### Fit / fitting
Means an occasion of service provided for the purpose of supplying and checking the fit of a compression garment.

### Generalist therapist
Physiotherapist or occupational therapist who has not completed a formal lymphoedema training program (e.g. Level 1 or 2 course), but has undertaken, or is currently undertaking the Compression garment, selection, fitting and monitoring education resource as part of the statewide compression garment trial
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<td>Local intake process</td>
<td>The criteria for intake. Each Hospital and Health Service is responsible for identifying to the public the process for how the client enters the local service through the local intake process for compression garment provision e.g. GP referral, referral from private provider for supply of garment, self-referral, transfer of care following discharge from cancer centre. This includes the local Hospital and Health Service identifying the relevant contact point for provision of compression garments.</td>
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<td>Local service</td>
<td>The Queensland Health facility closest to the client’s place of residence which has an occupational therapy or physiotherapy service (including services delivered to the facility through telehealth, outreach, public-private partnership or other models).</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphoedema service</td>
<td>Means a health service which can deliver primary care in relation to malignancy-related lymphoedema. One or more lymphoedema therapists shall be part of the service model, but need not directly provide the service to the client. The model of service delivery is determined by the Hospital and Health Service and may include services provided at a Cancer Centre or local service, directly by a lymphoedema therapist or by a generalist therapist with supervision or support (depending on the generalist therapist’s training and scope of practice in relation to lymphoedema) from a lymphoedema therapist. The service model may be supported by telehealth, outreach, public-private partnership or other models.</td>
<td>Compression Garment, Selection, Fitting and Monitoring Steering Group</td>
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| Clinician who provides compression garment care | **Queensland Health Practitioners eligibility criteria:**  
- A physiotherapist or occupational therapist registered with Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and  
- Holders of Level 1 Lymphoedema Training Certificate accredited by the Australasian Lymphology Association (ALA) or eligibility to register on the National Lymphoedema Practitioner Register (NLPR) as category one and  
- Recency of practice by demonstration of clinical experience in compression garment prescription |                                                                                           |
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|      | within the previous two years and  
|      | ● Continued professional development of 50 points in the previous two years as set out in the ALA Lymphoedema continuing professional development program set out by the National Lymphoedema Practitioner Register.  
|      | Or  
|      | ● A physiotherapist or occupational therapist registered with Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and  
|      | ● Has not completed a formal lymphoedema training program (e.g. Level 1 or 2 course), but has completed, or is currently completing the Compression garment, selection, fitting and monitoring education resource as part of the statewide compression garment trial. |
|      | Non-governmental community service organisation or a private practitioner eligibility criteria.  
|      | ● A physiotherapist, occupational therapist, podiatrist, registered nurse or medical Doctor, registered with Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and  
|      | ● Holders of Level 1 Lymphoedema Training Certificate accredited by the Australasian Lymphology Association (ALA) or eligibility to register on the National Lymphoedema Practitioner Register (NLPR) as category one and  
|      | ● Recency of practice by demonstration of clinical experience in compression garment prescription within the previous two years and  
<p>|      | ● Continued Professional Development of 50 points in the previous two years as set out in the ALA Lymphoedema continuing professional development program set out by the Lymphoedema Practitioner Register. |
| Lymphoedema therapist | Holders of Level 1 lymphoedema training certificate accredited by the Australasian Lymphology Association (ALA), recency of practice by demonstration of clinical experience in compression garment prescription within the previous two years. Continued professional development of 50 points in the previous two years as set out in the ALA Lymphoedema continuing professional development Program and/or Eligibility for Category 1 registration on the National Lymphoedema Practitioners Register of the Australasian Lymphology Association | Queensland Health, 2013, Guideline for compression garments for adults with malignancy related lymphoedema: Eligibility, |</p>
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<td>Compression garment review</td>
<td>Means to examine a patient’s response to the prescribed compression garment following supply. Includes information collection from client (supplemented by information from carers or other members of the multi-disciplinary team). Review differs from “re-assessment” as the purpose is primarily to gain information on the specific response to the intervention (garment supply), rather than more broadly gathering clinical information for the purpose of developing or modifying a diagnosis or care plan as part of a current episode of care.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.health.qld.gov.au/ahwac/html/modcare.asp">Adapted from Guidelines for writing clinical task instructions, 2014</a></td>
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<td>Source</td>
<td>For clients meeting the eligibility criteria under Section 3 of the <em>Guideline for compression garments for adults with malignancy related lymphoedema: Eligibility, supply and costing</em> means the health service directly sources (orders) the garment from the supplier for client including meeting the costs of the garment.</td>
<td>Queensland Health, 2013, <em>Guideline for compression garments for adults with malignancy related lymphoedema: Eligibility, supply and costing</em>, (Section 3.1) <a href="http://www.health.qld.gov.au/directives/docs/gdl/qh-hsdgdl-030-1.pdf">http://www.health.qld.gov.au/directives/docs/gdl/qh-hsdgdl-030-1.pdf</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stable lymphoedema</td>
<td>• Uncomplicated malignancy-related lymphoedema. Swelling affecting a limb(s) which has been present for over 3 months and is not relieved by bed rest or elevation. Subcutaneous tissues are soft and normal shape of the limb preserved. Swelling does not affect the head and neck, trunk or</td>
<td>British Lymphology Society, 2013, <em>Lymphoedema</em>.</td>
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<td>genital regions of the body</td>
<td>The lymphoedema is confined to one or two limbs and does not extend to the proximal root of the limb. The subcutaneous tissue is predominantly soft and/or pits on pressure in a small and localised area. The affected limb has maintained a relatively normal shape. The skin on the affected limb is healthy and intact. There is no arterial insufficiency. There is no known malignancy in the quadrant of the trunk which is adjacent to the affected limb. Renal, cardiac, liver and thyroid problems have been excluded as contributing factors or if present, these conditions are well controlled. The following characteristics would indicate that the client’s condition is not consistent with stable lymphoedema: new presentation of oedema/lymphoedema, not previously assessed or treated by a lymphoedema therapist recurrent cellulitic infections in previous twelve months history of infection of lymphoedematous limb requiring antibiotics fluctuating and increasing circumferential measures secondary skin changes and lymphorrhea oedema extends to root of limb and affects abdomen or trunk</td>
<td>Queensland Health, 2014, Compression garment, selection, fitting and monitoring education resources</td>
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<td>other secondary complications e.g. seroma, scarring issues, cording impacting on patient comfort or function.</td>
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