

Compression garments for adults with lymphoedema

Consumer information sheet

Compression garments are an essential treatment for managing lymphoedema. They help manage swelling and reduce the risk of infection. Compression garments for the treatment of lymphoedema are available for eligible people free of charge through Queensland Health.

If you meet the eligibility criteria, you can receive up to 2 fully funded compression garments per body part, every 6 months. Any additional garments will need to be self-funded.

Please note: Garments for people without a diagnosis of lymphoedema are not included. This includes things like garments required just for airplane travel.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible for fully funded compression garments, you must:

- have a diagnosis of lymphoedema, and a prescription from an eligible and qualified health practitioner (refer to the [Compression Garments for Adults with Lymphoedema: Eligibility, Supply and Costing Guideline for more information](#))
- be 16 years or older
- live in Queensland
- hold a current Medicare Card in your name
- hold either a current Pensioner Concession Card (refer to [Pensioner Concession Card - Services Australia](#)) or a Health Care Card issued by Services Australia (refer to [Health Care Card - Services Australia](#))

OR a Permanent Protection Visa, Humanitarian Visa or be an asylum seeker (Subclass 866 Protection visa).

You won't be eligible for a fully funded compression garment if:

- you are being treated for lymphoedema as an inpatient in hospital
- you are eligible for compression garments for lymphoedema under another Queensland or Commonwealth-funded program, like WorkCover, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and the National Injury Insurance Scheme (NIIS)
- the cost of the compression garment for lymphoedema is fully funded through third-party insurance, including health insurance or other relevant insurance.

Even if you're not eligible to receive a compression garment free of charge, you can still receive other services related to the treatment of lymphoedema through Queensland Health. This includes lymphoedema assessment, prescription, fitting, and problem solving for self-funded garments.

Who can prescribe compression garments?

Only eligible health practitioners can prescribe compression garments. This includes:

- practitioners who work for Queensland Health
- private practitioners (non-Queensland Health)
- practitioners with appropriate qualifications and training as outlined in the [Compression Garments for Adults with Lymphoedema: Eligibility, Supply and Costing Guideline](#).

To find your closest lymphoedema health practitioner:

- call your local Hospital and Health Service's Physiotherapy or Occupational Therapy department: www.health.qld.gov.au/services
- visit the Australasian Lymphology Association for a full list of accredited lymphoedema health practitioners: www.lymphoedema.org.au

How do I get a compression garment?

If you're already receiving care from an eligible health practitioner, they can prescribe compression garments using the health practitioner prescription (order) form.

They will return the form to your closest Hospital and Health Service, who will then order the garment for you. Once it arrives, your practitioner will arrange an appointment with you to be fitted.

If you're not under the care of an eligible health practitioner, please contact your local Hospital and Health Service for more information on how to access lymphoedema services, including an assessment.

When can I receive replacement garments?

Compression garments can lose their elasticity over time and from use.

You'll need to be reviewed by your health practitioner to get a new prescription for a new garment (even if your condition appears unchanged). Your health practitioner will recommend how often you should be re-assessed and get a replacement.

What happens if I move?

If your closest Hospital and Health Service changes, your care will be transferred to your new local health service. Ask your current health practitioner to refer you to the closest facility that can provide assessments for compression garments.

Alternatively, you can find a local provider using the Australasian Lymphology Association's Accreditation and Practitioners Registry: www.lymphoedema.org.au.

Your referring health practitioner will send your compression garment prescription and any relevant information about your condition to the new local health care service. You may be required to attend your new clinic for an assessment.

Where can I find more information?

Call your local Hospital and Health Service. They can provide more information about local lymphoedema services that are available and how to get compression garments. When you call, ask to speak to the physiotherapy or occupational therapy department.

For general enquires, call 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84), available 24 hours, 7 days a week.

Hospital and Health Service	Contact	Hospital and Health Service	Contact
Cairns and Hinterland	07 4226 6330	Metro South	07 3136 3636
Central Queensland	Rockhampton – 07 4920 6269 Gladstone/Biloela – 07 4976 3130 Emerald – 07 4987 9400	North West	07 4744 4447
Central West	07 4652 7960	South West	07 4620 2265
Children's Health Queensland	07 3068 2802	Sunshine Coast	07 5202 2233
Darling Downs	07 4616 6356	Torres and Cape	07 4226 1092 TCHHS-North-OT@health.qld.gov.au TCHHS-WPA-OT@health.qld.gov.au
Gold Coast	07 5687 3027	Townsville	07 4433 2370 07 4433 7321
Mackay	07 4885 7600	West Moreton	07 3810 1357
Metro North	RBWH UL, head/neck – 07 3646 7100 RBWH LL – 07 3646 4319 TPCH – 07 3139 4896 Redcliffe – 07 3883 7507 Caboolture – 07 53165780	Wide Bay	1300 090 760

Hospital and Health Services, Queensland Health by Recognised Public Hospitals and Primary Health Centres

