

# Provision of lymphoedema compression garments

## Patient information sheet

Queensland Health provides compression garments for the treatment of lymphoedema to eligible Queensland residents.

## Who is eligible?

Compression garments are available to permanent residents of Queensland who meet all of the following criteria:

- Hold one of the following cards:
  - Centrelink Pensioner Card
  - Centrelink Health Care Card
- Are Medicare eligible
- Have been assessed as having lymphoedema
- Are aged over 16 years
- Are an outpatient

This is a minimum eligibility standard – some health services may provide garments for a broader group of clients. If you do not meet these criteria, it is recommended that you contact your local health service to confirm your eligibility.

## Who can prescribe the garment?

A health care professional who is an occupational therapist, physiotherapist, podiatrist, nurse or doctor and has been trained to measure garments for the management of lymphoedema.

To find the contact of your local hospital or health service, go to:

<http://www.health.qld.gov.au/services/default.asp>

## What will be supplied?

You are entitled to up to two garments (per body part) provided every six months.

You may be required to self-fund any garments in excess of the entitlement or garments that are not prescribed by a qualified health professional.

Garments will not be supplied to individuals without clinical lymphoedema such as those with a normal size limb wishing to use a garment for air travel.

## How do I obtain a garment?

| Current status  | How to obtain a garment   |
|---|---|
| I am currently under the care of a local healthcare professional for lymphoedema              | Request completion of a garment prescription/order form from your healthcare professional. This may be an occupational therapist, physiotherapist, podiatrist, nurse or doctor within private practice, a Queensland Health facility or a non-governmental organisation.  |
| I am not currently under the care of a healthcare professional for lymphoedema                | Contact your local health service (general practice or hospital) for information on how to access a lymphoedema service healthcare professional, occupational therapist or physiotherapist. Following assessment, the health professional can provide you with a garment prescription/order form.   |
| I am returning to my home region following a period of care in another centre for lymphoedema | <p>Your care will be transferred to your local health service and the referring health professional will provide you with the contact details of the local service provider.</p> <p>Your referring healthcare professional will send your compression garment prescription and any relevant information about your condition to your local Queensland Health service. The local healthcare professional will supply the garment prescription/order form, which may require you attend the health facility for an assessment.</p>  |
| When you have a current garment prescription/order form                                       | <p>Your healthcare professional will send your garment prescription/order form to your local Queensland Health service.</p> <p>The local Queensland Health service may contact you to confirm any information required to order your garment.</p> <p>The local Queensland Health service will arrange for the purchase and supply of the garment.</p>   |
| When your garment has been ordered by your local Queensland Health service                    | <p>The health service will arrange for your garment to be delivered to the healthcare professional who provided the garment prescription.</p> <p>Your healthcare professional will contact you once the garment has been received. They will make an appointment with you to fit the garment and provide advice on garment care and any ongoing healthcare needs.</p>   |
| Replacement garments and ongoing care   | <p>When providing your garment, your healthcare professional will recommend how frequently you need to be seen. Replacement garments will be prescribed based on your care requirements. Up to 2 garments (per body part) can be provided free of charge every 6 months if required, providing your eligibility status is maintained.</p> <p>When seeking replacement garments, you will need to be reviewed by your healthcare professional to obtain a new script (if required) even if your condition is unchanged.</p> <p>For more information regarding the supply of compression garments in your local area contact your nearest hospital or health service.</p> <p>For any other queries, please contact the Allied Health Professions' Office of Queensland via email on <a href="mailto:allied_health_advisory@health.qld.gov.au">allied_health_advisory@health.qld.gov.au</a> or phone (07) 3328 9298.</p> |