

Lymphedema Reimbursement 101

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o ICD-10 Codes

- o 197.2 Post-mastectomy lymphedema
- o 189.0 Secondary Lymphedema
- o N94.89 Female Genital Lymphedema
- o N50.8 Scrotum-Genital Lymphedema
- o N48.89 Penis-Genital Lymphedema
- o 187.2 Chronic Venous Insufficiency

o CPT Codes

- o 97001, Evaluation
- o 97002, Re-evaluation
- o 97140, Manual therapy
 - o Includes Manual Lymphatic Drainage, soft tissue mobilization. Can be used to bill compression bandaging when it is passive.
- o 97535, Self Care
 - o Includes instruction in safety, self-care, management and performance of compression bandaging, adaptive equipment use, energy conservation and limb protection strategies.
 - o Code should not be used for all home instruction. Use the code that best describes the goal of the home activity. For example, if a patient is instructed on exercises to be done at home to improve strength and ROM, use 97110.
- o 97110, Therapeutic Exercise
 - o Includes Therapeutic exercises as part of a Complete Decongestive Therapy regimen, development of strength, ROM, and flexibility. Also instruction and performance of HEP.
- o 97530, Therapeutic Activities
 - o Includes dynamic activities to improve functional performance. Such as lifting, carrying, pushing, pulling, throwing, catching, transfers, overhead activities, stimulation of functional activities.
- o 97112, Neuromuscular Re-education
 - o Includes re-education of movement, balance, coordination, kinesthetic sense, posture, and proprioception.
- o 97504, Orthotic Fitting and Training
 - o Includes measurement for compression garments.
- o 97703, Orthotic Check-out
 - o Includes check out of compression garment, instruction in donning and doffing.
- o 97016, Compression pump

- o Use of compression pump, not a time-based code and only one unit may be billed
- o CPT codes 29581-29584, can be used to bill to insurance for the application of multilayer compression bandages used in lymphedema treatment. Although recognized as valid physical and occupational procedure codes, they are payer specific. It is recommend that one checks with their payor to verify if 29581-29584 will be covered when rendered by a physical or occupational therapist.

Below are the definitions of 29581-29584:

- o 29581: Application of multi-layer compression system of the leg (below the knee) including the ankle and leg
- o 29582: Application of multi-layer compression system of the thigh and leg including the ankle and foot (the entire leg)
- o 29583: Application of multi-layer compression system of the upper arm and forearm
- o 29584: Application of multi-layer compression system of the upper arm, forearm, hand and finger (the entire arm)
- o ****NOTE****
 - When billing manual therapy 97140 with codes 29581-29584, modifier 59 must be added to 97140.
 - When billing for bilateral application of multi-layer compression there are two options in submission. The first option is to bill 2 units of the code and add modifier 50 to the code indicating bilateral application of compression system. Ex: 2 units 29584 followed by modifier 50. The second is to bill 1 unit with a modifier RT for right and the second unit with a modifier LT for left: 1 unit 29584 followed by modifier RT.

- **Garments**

- o Coverage of garments for treatment of lymphedema varies among different providers. Patients or DME providers should assess patient's coverage and discuss with patients prior to ordering.
- o The Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 requires insurers and Health Maintenance organizations (HMOs) that offer mastectomy coverage to also provide coverage for services relating to the mastectomy including reconstruction, prostheses and treatment of physical complications of the mastectomy, including lymphedema. This also applies to patients who have non-cancer related mastectomies.

- **Bandages and Supplies**

- o Compression materials and bandages are typically not covered by payers. Clinics obtain materials from various vendors. Depending on practice and setting, an option for clinics is to have the patient reimburse the provider for materials used or purchase the supplies directly from the vendors. There are several vendors that specialize in lymphedema management materials.

- **Pneumatic Compression Pumps**

- o See the following link for Medicare's policy on lymphedema pumps. Coverage varies by insurance provider.

[http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/\(S\(3iepps3hnwcrz5es0ppyu045\)\)/details/nca-decision-memo.aspx?NCAId=50&ver=6&NcaName=Lymphedema+Pumps&NCDId=190&ncdver=2&IsPopup=y&bc=AAAAAAAAEAAA&](http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/(S(3iepps3hnwcrz5es0ppyu045))/details/nca-decision-memo.aspx?NCAId=50&ver=6&NcaName=Lymphedema+Pumps&NCDId=190&ncdver=2&IsPopup=y&bc=AAAAAAAAEAAA&)

- **Other Helpful Links**

- APTA comments on physical therapy treatment of secondary lymphedema:
http://www.apta.org/uploadedFiles/APTAorg/Payment/Medicare/Coverage_Issues/Lymphedema/Comments/Comments_102009.pdf
- For outcome measures to determine quality improvement and patient improvement, see PTNow in the Oncology and Section on Women's Health Sections:
<http://www.ptnow.org/FunctionalLimitationReporting/TestsMeasures/Default.aspx>