



# Benefit Update

## Pressure Gradient Stockings

On August 1, 2006, Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) increased the quantity of ready-made compression garments from two to three pairs every twelve months.

### **New Clients**

New clients are eligible if they present with signs and symptoms of Chronic Venous Insufficiency (CVI) Class 2 or Class 3 or chronic lymphedema. Clients that were authorized prior to the receipt of this update notice are not eligible for three pairs until their reassessment date.

### **Existing Clients**

Existing clients who continue to meet AADL's eligibility criteria will be eligible for three pairs every twelve months when it is time for their reassessment. Be advised that vendors should not encourage clients to contact authorizers for early reassessments unless there is a change in the client's clinical condition.

### **Toe and Ankle Pressures**

Systolic toe and ankle pressures are measured with a fitted occluding cuff placed around the base of the first toe and around both ankles.

Toe pressure of > 45mmHg is necessary for optimal healing (*Apelgvist, Castenfors, Larsson, Stendstrom, & Agardh, 1989, Frykberg et al., 2000*).

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## Authorizations

The length of pressure gradient stockings is based on the client's signs and symptoms of Chronic Venous Insufficiency (CVI). The client may request a specific length due to other clinical rationale, however, the client is only eligible for a specific length based on their CVI 2 symptoms.

If a client has other clinical rationale for a higher length or they want a higher length, the client has the option to pay the up-charge for that length. Please add this to the authorization and/or change form so the vendor is aware that the client has been informed of the up-charge.

When authorizing custom garments, please clearly state the clinical rationale for custom garments. The choice of ready-made compression has greatly increase thereby decreasing the need for custom.

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## Contact

For more information, please contact:  
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Or visit our website: [www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/AADL](http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/AADL)