

CUSTOM VASCULAR GARMENTS

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CUSTOM VASCULAR GARMENTS

1.0 AUTHORIZER QUALIFICATIONS

PT, OT and/or RN.

Please note: If the authorizer is doing the actual fitting, he or she must be a certified fitter by taking a manufacturer fitter's course that is recognized by AADL and renew this certificate every five years. A copy of the certificate must be submitted to AADL's medical/surgical program manager.

The above qualifications also apply to assessors.

2.0 PRESCRIPTION

- All authorizations for Chronic Venous Insufficiency Class 2 or Class 3 must have a copy of the lower leg assessment form attached.
- Incomplete authorization forms and/or lower leg assessments will not be considered and will be sent back to the authorizer.
- A script is not required; however, if the client's ankle brachial index is not within therapeutic range, only a physician with clinical expertise in this area and/or a vascular surgeon can approve compression. Please attach documentation that approval has been obtained to apply compression stockings.
- All authorizations and/or change forms for custom vascular garments must have clinical rationale clearly stated as to the rationale for the client requiring custom compression garments.
- All authorizations for custom lymphedema garments require a prescription, and the lower leg assessment may not be applicable based on the origin of the lymph edema. Rationale for authorizing custom must be clearly stated on the authorization and/or change form.
- If thigh-high or pantyhose's are requested there must be clinical rationale of CVI 2 above the knee or into the groin clearly indicated on the lower leg assessment form.
- If a client wants thigh-high or pantyhose but only qualifies for below knee, the client may pay the up-charge to the longer length. Please indicate this on the authorization form.
- A client cannot have two different styles and/or compressions of stockings.
- If pantyhose are requested, prior approval must be given by AADL's medical/surgical manager prior to completing an AADL authorization and/or change form.

3.0 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

AADL assists with the cost of custom vascular garments for individuals who have documented Chronic Venous Insufficiency (CVI) Class 2 or Class 3, or documented chronic lymphedema whereby ready-made compression garments are NOT able to meet their clinical need.

The authorizer must provide clear clinical rationale for custom garments as opposed to ready-made in the authorization and/or change form.

For detailed information on Chronic Venous Insufficiency, please refer to items 3.0, 4.0, 5.0 and 6.0 in Section N of the AADL Program Manual.

4.0 QUANTITY LIMITS

Maximum of two garments (per affected limb) per 12-month period.

5.0 CLIENT RESPONSIBILITIES/INSURANCE COVERAGE

The AADL Program does not replace lost, stolen, or broken/damaged benefits. Clients should purchase homeowners'/tenants' insurance to cover the cost of replacements in these instances.

6.0 AUTHORIZER RESPONSIBILITIES

Authorizers are responsible for the following:

6.1 Ensure the Client:

- meets AADL's eligibility criteria as outlined in the Client Eligibility Criteria Section of the general Policies & Procedures;
- meets the specific eligibility criteria outlined and authorized quantities based on the clinical assessment of the client's needs;
- wounds are healed prior to authorization;
- cost-share status is confirmed, and provide (if required) either an Alberta Seniors and Community Supports Cost-Share Exemption form #AADL1859 (for seniors) or Alberta Health and Wellness Application for Premium Subsidy form #AHC0208G (for non-seniors);
- signs the Client Declaration Form;
- is aware that they have a choice of three (3) vendors and that a full list of all AADL approved vendors is available;
- is provided with follow-up assessments;
- is aware that they may receive reduced quantities if their clinical needs change; when this occurs, vendors must supply the reduced quantity;
- is aware that the authorization is valid for a two-year period or at decreased period based on the authorizer's clinical assessment;
- is aware that that they may need to be-reassessed at least every two years;

- is aware that products authorized are only for the client that was assessed and authorized;
- is aware that quantities authorized are based on their assessed clinical need;
- is aware that the authorizer may complete a change form changing products or changing quantities based on their re-assessment;
- is aware that AADL does NOT pay for any brokerage fees and/or “rush” deliveries that may be requested by the authorizer and/or the client;
- is aware that AADL provides postage for rural clients requiring subsequent garments shipped to their home.

6.2 Assessments

- Authorizers may clinically provide directions as to the type of custom vascular garments that are required for the client on the authorization form (for example, requires open toe stockings).
- Authorizers may only sign authorizations by an assessor that is an RN, PT, or OT and who is trained in lower leg assessment that includes an ankle brachial index.
- Authorizers signing for assessors are accountable to ensure that the lower leg assessment meets AADL’s eligibility criteria for completing and submitting the AADL authorization form.
- Clients are authorized based on the lower leg assessment that verifies that the client has signs and symptoms of CVI 2 or CVI 3 and that the ankle brachial index is within therapeutic range (0.8 to 1.2).
- Edema must be investigated and reduced prior to authorization.
- Clinicians can only authorize clients who have an ankle brachial index of 0.8 to 1.2. Only vascular surgeons or physicians specializing in this area can determine if a client is appropriate to wear compression if the ankle brachial index is lower than 0.8 (script must be attached to the authorization form).
- Clients with a diagnosis of diabetes or those that have an ankle brachial index below 0.8 or above 1.2 must have a toe pressure completed to ensure that it is safe to compress the limb. Unless the authorizer has documentation from the client’s physician.
- It is recommended that clients receive one compression garment initially to ensure compliance and/or that length or degree of support is clinically appropriate.

6.3 Authorizations

- Authorizations are for a period of two years; however, it is the authorizer’s clinical discretion to authorize for a shorter period of time (i.e. one year).
- Authorizations for custom garments must have clear clinical rationale on the authorization form and/or change form.
- Authorize postage only when needed

- Please include J491 – postage, on the authorization form for rural clients only.
- AADL includes postage so that clients in a rural setting are not at a disadvantage in receiving subsequent garments.
- The invoice cost of mailing the garment to the client is cost-shared with AADL.

7.0 VENDOR RESPONSIBILITIES: Summary for Authorizers

Authorizers please be aware that the following are vendor requirements as per their individual benchmark contract for custom vascular garments.

- A private wheelchair accessible fitting room.
- Employee at least one certified fitter that renews their education at least once every five years training through a manufacturer's fitting course which is recognized by AADL
- Have at least two different manufacturer's brands that clients can obtain their custom vascular garments from.
- Document the client's fitting and garment provided.
- Follow the authorizer's directions on the authorization form
- If the vendor cannot provide the type of stocking that the authorizer clinically recommends then it is the vendor's responsibility to inform the client and the authorizer.
- Cannot substitute without the authorizer's approval.
- If there is evidence of edema or any other concerns during the fitting, the vendor is NOT to proceed and will contact the authorizer immediately.
- Provide custom vascular garments based on the client's measurements.
- Cannot provide larger sizes. If the client wants a "bigger" size due to tightness, the vendor must NOT provide the garments and notify the authorizer.
- Clients are to demonstrate to the vendor that they can don and doff the garments independently.
- If there are concerns, regarding the client's ability to don and doff the garments the authorizer is to be contacted.
- It is recommended that only one custom compression garment is provided initially.
- To conduct a follow-up three to four weeks after initial fitting.
- Only bill for garments that have been provided to the client NOT for the quantity that has been authorized.
- Only bill for postage when it is NOT provided under the manufacturing pricing for custom vascular garments.
- Please be aware that AADL does not pay or any possible brokerage fee that the vendor may incur.
- And AADL does not pay for "RUSH" deliveries.