


HOW TO PRESCRIBE A PNEUMATIC COMPRESSION PUMP FOR LYMPHEDEMA TREATMENT

A patient who is experiencing swelling and pain in their lower body (feet and legs), upper body (arms and shoulders), or truncal region (abdomen and pelvic region) that will not go away may have a chronic condition known as lymphedema.

One of the treatment options is a Pneumatic Compression Device (PCD), commonly known as a lymphedema compression pump. Below is an overview of how you can acquire one of these medical devices for your patients that will help them reduce pain and swelling, become more active, and live a higher quality of life.

1. Lymphedema Diagnosis




A diagnosis of lymphedema must be made and documented in the patient's medical record after a patient visit. Chronic Venous Insufficiency (CVI) may be a secondary diagnosis. There are three elements of a lymphedema/CVI diagnosis that must be documented by a physician.

1. **Measurements of the area** of the body must be taken and documented.
2. **Clinical findings** must include one or more of the following:
 - a. Hyperkeratosis with hyperplasia and hyperpigmentation
 - b. Papillomatosis cutis lymphostatics
 - c. Deformity of elephantiasis
 - d. Skin breakdown with persisting lymphorrhea
 - e. Synonymous clinical terms including a description of persisting symptoms.
3. For **Medicare and commercial insurance**, a diagnosis with at least one of the following must be documented:
 - a. **I97.2** Post mastectomy lymphedema
 - b. **I89.0** Lymphedema, not elsewhere classified (document etiology)
 - c. **Q82.0** Hereditary lymphedema (including lymphedema tarda)
 - d. **I87.2/L97.919R or I87.2/L97.929L** Chronic venous insufficiency with chronic ulcer

2. Conservative Measures

Once the patient has been diagnosed with lymphedema, a 4-week trial of conservative treatments must be attempted with the goal of relieving symptoms. During this trial, the patient must try elevation, exercise, and some kind of compression bandaging system such as wraps or compression stockings. After the trial, measurements of the area of the body should be taken and documented.

3. Script/Standard Written Order Generation



If the patient shows no improvement after the trial, the patient qualifies for an E0651 Pneumatic Compression Device. A script (commercial insurance) or Standard Written Order (Medicare) can be written. If truncal, chest, or abdominal swelling is a concern of the prescribing physician and/or lymphedema therapist, measurements should be taken. A trial with the E0651 PCD should be initiated, which typically last four weeks. If at any point during the trial the physician determines that swelling remains in the truncal, chest, or abdominal areas, or if the PCD seems to be causing more harm than aid to the patient, the patient could qualify for a high-end E0652 level device. The same is the case if the patient develops a wound, sensitive area, or scar as a result of treatment.

4. Durable Medical Equipment Supplier Fulfills Order

Once the prescription/standard written order is completed, it can be sent to a Durable Medical Equipment (DME) company that provides pneumatic compression devices for the order to be filled. The DME will work with you and the patient's insurance company (Medicare or commercial insurance) and will also handle the paperwork and documentation required for billing.

The DME may be the device manufacturer itself, or it may be a separate company.

NOTE: You may be able to work with a DME that you know. AIROS Medical is a device manufacturer that sells to DMEs and can help you identify a DME in your area.



4

5. Device Delivery & Patient Treatment

A PCD may be shipped directly to a patient, or a field technician from the DME will deliver the device to the patient's residence.

The DME's field technician will come to the residence, show the patient how to use the device, have you and the patient complete necessary paperwork.

Any issues or questions about the equipment moving forward would be directed to the DME.



5

6. Next Steps: Contact Us to Find a DME

AIROS Medical's team has decades of experience providing PCD devices to patients and working with DMEs directly to help lymphedema and CVI patients receive the treatment they need. Please contact us with any questions about this process, or to help you find a DME in your area.



6