I. **POLICY**

It is the policy of MedStar Health, Inc. to cover Gradient Compression Garments/Stockings for use in the home setting when they are medically necessary (refer to CRM .015.MH - Medical Necessity policy), according to the indications outlined in this policy and covered by the member’s specific benefit plan.

II. **DEFINITIONS**

**Compression Gauntlets and Gloves** are compression garments for the hands. Gauntlets are separate garments from the compression sleeve and are used to make it easier to place and remove both garments.

**Compression Sleeves** covers the entire arm from the wrist to the shoulder. Some examples include: Reid Sleeve, Sigvaris, Juzo, and CircAid.

**Compression Stockings/Hose** are worn over the legs at least knee-high. The compression hose commonly used for treating lymphedema extends to the hip. When both legs are involved, a panty-hose style may be used. Compression stockings often leave the toes exposed to avoid pressure points or the formation of calluses.

**Custom-made-Gradient Compression Garment**-is a garment requiring a unique fitting or the application of special materials (e.g., Elvarex). The uses of zippers or reinforced areas such as heels are not considered unique materials.

**Elastic stockings**- (refer to Over-the-Counter Garments /Elastic Stockings).
Lymphedema sleeve is a custom fabricated garment that applies gradient pressure and is worn to maintain reduction in the upper or lower limb achieved through manual lymph drainage and/or complex decongestive physiotherapy of the limb. (Refer to MP .075.MH Lymphedema Pumps and Appliances policy).

Non-Elastic Binders for Extremity are sleeves that slide over affected extremity to provide continuous static compression using adjustable Velcro, hook and loop or buckle straps rather than elastic. Some examples include: LegAssist, CircAid, and Reid Sleeve).

Over-the-Counter Garments /Elastic Stockings are available over-the-counter with or without a prescription. Examples include: thromboembolic disease (TED) hose, elastic stockings, surgical leggings, pressure leotards and anti-embolism stockings.

Ready-to-Wear Gradient Compression Garments – a garment that does not require custom fitting; examples include: Jobst, SigVarus and Venes.

III. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to describe coverage for Gradient Compression Garments/Stockings.

IV. SCOPE

This policy applies to various MedStar Health, Inc departments as indicated by the Benefit and Reimbursement Committee. These include but are not limited to Medical Management, Benefit Configuration and Claims Departments.

V. PROCEDURE

A. Medical Description

Gradient Compression Garments are specialized elastic knit two-way stretch stockings, sleeves, gloves, gauntlets or non-elastic binders that provide pressure compression. They are used to promote venous and/or lymphatic circulation or to treat and prevent complications from poor circulation.

There are two (2) types of compression garments: ready-to-wear and custom-made, either can be worn under clothing throughout the day. Compression garments are not
worn while sleeping because they provide too much compression when the body is inactive at rest.

There are two types of compression garments: ready-to-wear and custom-made, either can be worn under clothing throughout the day. Compression garments are not worn while sleeping because they provide too much compression when the body is inactive or at rest.

Compression garments are available in a wide range of styles, sizes, and compression strengths. In addition for use in treating lymphedema, this type of garment is also used to treat other conditions that involve swelling of the legs such as chronic venous insufficiency and varicose veins.

Compression garments are prescribed to the recipient to provide the correct amount of pressure to control swelling. Too little compression is ineffective and too much compression can damage the tissues.

Compression garments are prescribed by a physician and are custom measured by a trained licensed professional to ensure the garment stays comfortably in place and fits smoothly without wrinkles or bulges that can damage the tissues. Circumferential and length measurements are required for the fitting.

**B. Indications**

Gradient Compression Garments/Stockings are covered when all of the following are met:

1. There is a written prescription from the treating physician
   And
2. A written, signed and dated order must be received by the supplier before billing for Gradient Compression Garments/Stockings.
   And
3. A qualified health care professional must measure the member’s extremity.
   And
4. Gradient Compression Garments/Stockings are considered medically necessary when at least one of the following conditions are met:
   - Open ulcer
   - To secure a primary dressing over an open venous stasis ulcer that has been treated by a physician or other health care professional requiring medically necessary debridement
   - Lymphedema treatment
Prevention of stasis ulcers and reoccurrence of stasis ulcers that have healed
Venous Insufficiency
Edema-chronic, following trauma, burns, surgery, fractures, venous, severe with pregnancy, associated with paraplegia and quadriplegia
Deep venous thrombosis (DVT ) prophylaxis during pregnancy and postpartum
Post thrombotic/ phlebitic syndrome
Post sclerotherapy
For prevention of thrombosis in immobilized persons
Phlebitis/Thrombophlebitis
Postural hypotension
Lipodermatosclerosis
Symptomatic Varicose veins (not spider veins)

Non-Elastic Binders & Gradient Compression Garments (ready-to-wear or custom made):

- Non-elastic binders and gradient pressure garments which are ready-to-wear or custom made are only covered for lymphedema treatment when there is a written prescription from the treating physician.

Post Mastectomy Lymphedema (Refer to MP .075 Lymphedema Pumps and Appliances policy).

C. Limitations

Gradient Compression Garments/Stockings for a member are not covered for any of the following conditions:

- Any garment/stocking that is supplied without a written physician’s order.
- Gradient compression garments/stockings are not covered and not considered medically necessary for any one of the following conditions with or without a written physicians order:
  - Osteoarthritis
  - Fibromitosis
  - Chronic airway obstruction
  - Carpal tunnel syndrome
  - Urine retention
  - Cellulitis
- Neurogenic bladder
- Paralysis agitans
- Sprained and or strained joints or ligaments
- Tendinitis
- Sleep apnea
- Hammer toe
- Lupus Erythematosus
- Hyperlipidemia
- Dermatitis
- Asthma
- esophageal reflux
- Cystocele
- Osteomyelitis
- Backache
- Chest pain

Gradient Compression Garments are limited to four pairs per benefit period.

D. Codes

The following codes for treatments and procedures applicable to this policy are included below for informational purposes. Inclusion or exclusion of a procedure, diagnosis or device code(s) does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement policy. Please refer to the member's contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage of these services as it applies to an individual member.

The following codes are covered for the indications listed in this policy and when they are on the plan’s fee schedule:

**Codes Covered with Lymphedema Diagnoses:**

- **A4465** Non-elastic binders for extremity
- **S8420** Gradient pressure aid (sleeves & glove combination), custom made
- **S8421** Gradient pressure aid (sleeves & glove combination), ready made
- **S8422** Gradient pressure aid (sleeve), custom made, medium weight
- **S8423** Gradient pressure aid (sleeve), custom made, heavy weight
- **S8424** Gradient pressure aid (sleeve, ready made
- **S8425** Gradient pressure aid (glove), custom made, medium weight
- **S8426** Gradient pressure aid (glove), custom made, heavy weight
- **S8427** Gradient pressure aid (glove), ready made
- **S8428** Gradient pressure aids (gauntlet), ready made
- **S8429** Gradient pressure exterior wrap
S8430 Padding for compression bandage, roll
S8431 Compression bandage, roll

**Codes Covered for Other Indications Listed in Policy:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A4490</td>
<td>Surgical stockings above knee length, each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4495</td>
<td>Surgical stockings thigh length, each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4500</td>
<td>Surgical stockings below knee length, each</td>
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<tr>
<td>A4510</td>
<td>Surgical stockings full length, each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A6530</td>
<td>Gradient compression stockings, below knee 18-30 mm Hg, each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A6531</td>
<td>Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 30-40 mm Hg, each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A6532</td>
<td>Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 40-50 mm Hg, each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A6533</td>
<td>Gradient compression stockings, thigh length, 18-30 mm Hg, each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A6534</td>
<td>Gradient compression stockings, thigh length, 30-40 mm Hg, each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A6535</td>
<td>Gradient compression stockings, thigh length, 40-50 mm Hg, each</td>
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<tr>
<td>A6536</td>
<td>Gradient compression stockings, full length/chap style, 18-30 mm Hg, each</td>
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<td>Gradient compression stockings, full length/chap style, 30-40 mm Hg, each</td>
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<td>A6541</td>
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<tr>
<td>A6544</td>
<td>Gradient compression stockings, garter belt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A6549</td>
<td>Gradient compression stockings, not otherwise specified</td>
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</table>

**Lymphedema Diagnosis ICD-9 Codes:**

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Non-infectious disorders of lymphatic channels</td>
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<td>457.0</td>
<td>Post mastectomy syndrome</td>
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<tr>
<td>457.1</td>
<td>Other lymphedema</td>
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<td>457.2</td>
<td>Lymphangitis</td>
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<tr>
<td>457.8</td>
<td>Other non-infectious disorders of lymphatic channels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>457.9</td>
<td>Unspecified non-infectious disorder of lymphatic channels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>757.0</td>
<td>Hereditary edema of legs</td>
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**ICD-9 Diagnosis Codes for Other Indications in this Policy:**

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>174.8</td>
<td>Malignant neoplasm of other specified sites of female breast</td>
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<tr>
<td>174.9</td>
<td>Malignant neoplasm of breast (female), unspecified site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>239.3</td>
<td>Neoplasm of unspecified nature of breast</td>
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<tr>
<td>272.4</td>
<td>Other and unspecified hyperlipidemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>289.3</td>
<td>Lymphadenitis, unspecified except mesenteric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>342.00</td>
<td>Hemiplegia and hemiparesis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
342.92 Other paralytic syndromes
344.00 - Other peripheral vascular disease
344.9 Unspecified peripheral vascular disease
444.9 Embolism and thrombosis of unspecified artery
451.0 - 451.2 Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of superficial or deep vessels of lower extremities
451.89 Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of other site
451.9 Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified site
453.1 Thrombophlebitis migrans
453.41 Acute venous embolism and thrombosis of deep vessels of proximal lower extremity
453.42 Acute venous embolism and thrombosis of deep vessels of distal lower extremity
453.5 Chronic venous embolism and thrombosis of unspecified deep vessels of lower extremity
453.6 Venous embolism and thrombosis of superficial vessels of lower extremity
453.82 Acute venous embolism and thrombosis of deep vessels of upper extremity
453.89 Acute venous embolism and thrombosis of other specified veins
454.0 - 454.8 Varicose veins of lower extremities, with ulcer, with inflammation, with ulcer and inflammation, or with other complications
457 Post mastectomy lymphedema syndrome
458.0 Orthostatic hypotension
459.10 - Postphlebitic syndrome
459.19
459.2 Compression of vein
459.31 Chronic venous hypertension with ulcer
459.33 Chronic venous hypertension with ulcer and inflammation
459.81 Venous (peripheral) insufficiency, unspecified
459.89 Other specified circulatory system disorders
459.9 Unspecified circulatory system disorders
646.10 - Edema or excessive weight gain in pregnancy, without mention of hypertension
646.14 Varicose veins of legs in pregnancy and the puerperium
671.04 Ulcer of the lower limb
707.1-707.9 Effusion of lower leg and foot
719.06-
Swelling of limb
Lower limb vessel anomaly
Hereditary edema of legs
Edema
Debility, unspecified
Open wound of knee, leg (except thigh), and ankle, without mention of complication
Open wound of foot except toe(s) alone, without mention of complication
Multiple and unspecified open wound of lower limb, without mention of complication
Multiple and unspecified open wound of lower limb, complicated
Burn of unspecified degree of unspecified site of lower limb (leg)
Disruption of internal operation (surgical) wound
Disruption of external operation (surgical) wound
Non-healing surgical wound
Bed confinement status

**Lymphedema Diagnosis ICD-10 Codes:**
I97.2 Post mastectomy lymphedema syndrome
I89.0 Lymphedema, not elsewhere classified
I89.1 Lymphangitis
I89.8 Other specified noninfective disorders of lymphatic vessels and lymph nodes
I89.9 Other specified noninfective disorders of lymphatic vessels and lymph nodes, unspecified
Q82.0 Noninfective disorder of lymphatic vessels and lymph nodes, unspecified Hereditary lymphedema

**ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes for Other Indications in this Policy:**
C50.819 Malignant neoplasm of overlapping sites of unspecified female breast
C50.919 Malignant neoplasm of unspecified site of unspecified female breast
D49.3 Neoplasm of unspecified behavior of breast
E78.4 Other hyperlipidemia
E78.5 Hyperlipidemia, unspecified
I88.9 Nonspecific lymphadenitis, unspecified
G81.00 Flaccid hemiplegia affecting unspecified side
G81.01 Flaccid hemiplegia affecting right dominant side
G81.02 Flaccid hemiplegia affecting left dominant side
G81.03 Flaccid hemiplegia affecting right nondominant side
G81.04 Flaccid hemiplegia affecting left nondominant side
G81.10 Spastic hemiplegia affecting unspecified side
G81.11 Spastic hemiplegia affecting right dominant side
G81.12 Spastic hemiplegia affecting left dominant side
G81.13 Spastic hemiplegia affecting right nondominant side
<table>
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<td>Hemiplegia, unspecified affecting unspecified side</td>
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<td>G81.91</td>
<td>Hemiplegia, unspecified affecting right dominant side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G81.92</td>
<td>Hemiplegia, unspecified affecting left dominant side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G81.93</td>
<td>Hemiplegia, unspecified affecting right nondominant side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G81.94</td>
<td>Hemiplegia, unspecified affecting left nondominant side</td>
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<td>G82.20</td>
<td>Paraplegia, unspecified</td>
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<td>G82.5</td>
<td>Quadriplegia, unspecified</td>
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<td>Quadriplegia, C1-C4 incomplete</td>
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<td>Quadriplegia, C5-C7 complete</td>
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<td>Quadriplegia, C5-C7 incomplete</td>
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<td>Quadriplegia, unspecified</td>
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<td>G83.11</td>
<td>Monoplegia of lower limb affecting right dominant side</td>
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<tr>
<td>G83.12</td>
<td>Monoplegia of lower limb affecting left dominant side</td>
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<tr>
<td>G83.13</td>
<td>Monoplegia of lower limb affecting right nondominant side</td>
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<tr>
<td>G83.14</td>
<td>Monoplegia of lower limb affecting left nondominant side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G83.20</td>
<td>Monoplegia of upper limb affecting unspecified side</td>
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<td>G83.21</td>
<td>Monoplegia of upper limb affecting right dominant side</td>
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<td>G83.22</td>
<td>Monoplegia of upper limb affecting left dominant side</td>
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<td>G83.23</td>
<td>Monoplegia of upper limb affecting right nondominant side</td>
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<td>G83.24</td>
<td>Monoplegia of upper limb affecting left nondominant side</td>
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<td>G83.30</td>
<td>Monoplegia, unspecified affecting unspecified side</td>
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<tr>
<td>G83.4</td>
<td>Cauda equine syndrome</td>
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<tr>
<td>G83.5</td>
<td>Locked-in state</td>
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<td>G83.81</td>
<td>Brown-Sequard syndrome</td>
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<td>Todd’s paralysis (postepileptic)</td>
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<td>G83.89</td>
<td>Other specified paralytic syndromes</td>
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<td>G83.9</td>
<td>Paralytic syndrome, unspecified</td>
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<td>I73.89</td>
<td>Other specified peripheral vascular diseases</td>
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<td>I74.9</td>
<td>Embolism and thrombosis of unspecified artery</td>
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<td>I80.00</td>
<td>Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of superficial vessels of unspecified lower extremity</td>
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<tr>
<td>I80.10</td>
<td>Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified femoral vein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I80.209</td>
<td>Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified deep vessels of unspecified lower extremity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I80.3</td>
<td>Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of lower extremities, unspecified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I80.8</td>
<td>Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of other sites</td>
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<td>I80.9</td>
<td>Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified site</td>
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<tr>
<td>I82.1</td>
<td>Thrombophlebitis migrans</td>
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<tr>
<td>I82.419</td>
<td>Acute embolism and thrombosis of unspecified femoral vein</td>
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Acute embolism and thrombosis of unspecified popliteal vein
Acute embolism and thrombosis of unspecified deep veins of unspecified proximal lower extremity
Acute embolism and thrombosis of unspecified femoral vein
Acute embolism and thrombosis of other specified deep vein of unspecified lower extremity
Acute embolism and thrombosis of unspecified deep veins of unspecified distal lower extremity
Chronic embolism and thrombosis of unspecified deep veins of unspecified lower extremity
Chronic embolism and thrombosis of other specified deep vein of unspecified lower extremity
Embolism and thrombosis of superficial veins and unspecified lower extremities
Acute embolism and thrombosis of deep veins of unspecified upper extremity
Acute embolism and thrombosis of other specified veins
Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with ulcer of unspecified site
Varicose veins of right lower extremity with ulcer of unspecified site
Varicose veins of left lower extremity with ulcer of unspecified site
Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with inflammation
Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with both ulcer of unspecified site of inflammation
Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremities with other complications
Postthrombotic syndrome without complications of unspecified extremity
Postthrombotic syndrome with ulcer of unspecified lower extremity
Postthrombotic syndrome with inflammation of unspecified lower extremity
Postthrombotic syndrome with ulcer and inflammation of unspecified lower extremity
Postthrombotic syndrome with other complications of unspecified lower extremity
Compression of vein
Venous insufficiency (chronic) (peripheral)
Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with ulcer of unspecified lower extremity
Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with ulcer and inflammation of unspecified lower extremity
Post mastectomy lymphedema syndrome
Orthostatic hypotension
Other disorder of circulatory system
Unspecified disorder of circulatory system
Gestational edema, unspecified trimester
Gestational edema first trimester
Gestational edema, second trimester
Gestational edema, third trimester
Gestational edema with proteinuria, unspecified trimester
Gestational edema with proteinuria, first trimester
Gestational edema with proteinuria, second trimester
Gestational edema with proteinuria, third trimester
Varicose veins of lower extremity in pregnancy, unspecified trimester
Varicose veins of lower extremity in pregnancy, first trimester
Varicose veins of lower extremity in pregnancy, second trimester
Varicose veins of lower extremity in pregnancy, third trimester
Excessive weight gain in pregnancy, unspecified trimester
Excessive weight gain in pregnancy, first trimester
Excessive weight gain in pregnancy, second trimester
Excessive weight gain in pregnancy, third trimester
Varicose veins of lower extremity in the puerperium
Pressure Ulcer
Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified part of unspecified lower leg with unspecified severity
Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified thing with unspecified severity
Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified calf with unspecified severity
Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified ankle with unspecified severity
Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified heel and midfoot with unspecified severity
Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of unspecified foot with unspecified severity
Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of unspecified lower leg with unspecified severity
Effusion, unspecified knee
Effusion, unspecified ankle
Effusion, unspecified foot
Arteriovenous malformation of vessel of lower limb
Hereditary lymphedema
Localized edema
Generalized edema
Edema, unspecified
Other malaise
Unspecified open wound, unspecified hip initial encounter
Laceration with foreign body, unspecified hip, initial encounter
Unspecified open wound, unspecified knee, initial encounter
Unspecified open wound, unspecified lower leg, initial encounter
Unspecified open wound, unspecified ankle, initial encounter
Unspecified open wound, unspecified foot, initial encounter
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S96.929A</td>
<td>Laceration with foreign body, unspecified foot, initial encounter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T22.00XA-</td>
<td>Laceration of unspecified muscle and tendon at ankle and foot level,</td>
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<tr>
<td>T22.39S</td>
<td>unspecified foot, initial encounter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T81.32XA</td>
<td>Burn of shoulder and upper limb, except wrist and hand</td>
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<td>initial encounter</td>
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<td>Z74.01</td>
<td>Disruption of external operation (surgical) wound, not elsewhere classified</td>
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<td></td>
<td>initial encounter</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>encounter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bed confinement status</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

E. Variations

N/A

F. Quality Audit

Quality Audit may monitor policy compliance or billing accuracy at the request of MedStar Health, Inc.

G. Records Retention

Records Retention for documents, regardless of medium are provided within the MedStar Health, Inc. Policy and Procedure Corp.028.MH Records Retention.

H. References

Medical Literature/Clinical Information:

Regulatory/Government Source:
Disclaimer:

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