Local Coverage Determination (LCD)

Surgical Dressings

L33831

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Contractor Information
LCD Information

Document Information

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Surgical Dressings
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Issue

Issue Description

Corrected punctuation by adding a comma in the first sentence of the section titled “Collagen Dressing Or Wound Filler” within the Coverage Indications, Limitations, and/or Medical Necessity.

Issue - Explanation of Change Between Proposed LCD and Final LCD

No proposed LCD issued.

CMS National Coverage Policy

CMS Manual System, Pub. 100-02, Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 15, Section 100, 100-03, National Coverage Determinations Manual, Chapter 1, Sections 270.4 & 270.5

Coverage Guidance

Coverage Indications, Limitations, and/or Medical Necessity

For any item to be covered by Medicare, it must 1) be eligible for a defined Medicare benefit category, 2) be reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury or to improve the functioning of a malformed body member, and 3) meet all other applicable Medicare statutory and regulatory requirements.
The purpose of a Local Coverage Determination (LCD) is to provide information regarding “reasonable and necessary” criteria based on Social Security Act § 1862(a)(1)(A) provisions.
In addition to the “reasonable and necessary” criteria contained in this LCD there are other payment rules, which are discussed in the following documents, that must also be met prior to Medicare reimbursement:

- The LCD-related Standard Documentation Requirements Article, located at the bottom of this policy under the Related Local Coverage Documents section.
- The LCD-related Policy Article, located at the bottom of this policy under the Related Local Coverage Documents section.
- Refer to the Supplier Manual for additional information on documentation requirements.
- Refer to the DME MAC web sites for additional bulletin articles and other publications related to this LCD.

Medicare provides reimbursement for surgical dressing under the Surgical Dressings Benefit. This benefit only provides coverage for primary and secondary surgical dressing used on the skin on specified wound types. Refer to the related Policy Article NON-MEDICAL NECESSITY COVERAGE AND PAYMENT RULES for information about these statutory requirements.
In addition to the statutory requirements, for the items addressed in this LCD, the “reasonable and necessary” criteria, based on Social Security Act § 1862(a)(1)(A) provisions, are defined by the following coverage indications, limitations and/or medical necessity.

DRESSINGS

The following are specific guidelines for individual product types.

Alginate Or Other Fiber Gelling Dressing (A6196-A6199)

Alginate or other fiber gelling dressing covers are covered for moderately to highly exudative full thickness wounds (e.g., stage 3 or 4 ulcers); and alginate or other fiber gelling dressing fillers for moderately to highly exudative full thickness wound cavities (e.g., stage 3 or 4 ulcers). They are not reasonable and necessary on dry wounds or wounds covered with eschar. Dressing change is up to once per day. One wound cover sheet of the approximate size of the wound or up to 2 units of wound filler (1 unit = 6 inches of alginate or other fiber gelling dressing rope) is used at each dressing change.

Collagen Dressing Or Wound Filler (A6010, A6011, A6021-A6024)

A collagen-based dressing or wound filler is covered for full thickness wounds (e.g., stage 3 or 4 ulcers), wounds with light to moderate exudate, or wounds that have stalled or have not progressed toward a healing goal. They can stay in place up to 7 days. Collagen based dressings are not covered for wounds with heavy exudate, third-degree burns, or when an active vasculitis is present.

Composite Dressing (A6203-A6205)

Composite dressings are covered for moderately to highly exudative wounds. Composite dressing change is up to 3 times per week, one wound cover per dressing change.

Contact Layer (A6206-A6208)

Contact layer dressings are used to line the entire wound to prevent adhesion of the overlying dressing to the wound. They are not reasonable and necessary when used with any dressing that has a non-adherent or semi-adherent layer as part of the dressing. They are not intended to be changed with each dressing change. Dressing change is up to once per week.

Foam Dressing Or Wound Filler (A6209-A6215)

Foam dressings are covered when used on full thickness wounds (e.g., stage 3 or 4 ulcers) with moderate to heavy exudate. Dressing change for a foam wound cover used as a primary dressing is up to 3 times per week. When a foam wound cover is used as a secondary dressing for wounds with very heavy exudate, dressing change is up to 3 times per week. Dressing change frequency for foam wound fillers is up to once per day.

Gauze, Non-Impregnated (A6216-A6221, A6402-A6404, A6407)

Non-impregnated gauze dressing change is up to 3 times per day for a dressing without a border and once per day for a dressing with a border. It is usually not reasonable and necessary to stack more than 2 gauze pads on top of each other in any one area.

Gauze, Impregnated, With Other Than Water, Normal Saline, Hydrogel, Or Zinc Paste (A6222-A6224, A6266)

Coverage is based upon the characteristics of the underlying material(s). Dressing change for gauze dressings impregnated with other than water, normal saline, hydrogel or zinc paste is up to once per day.

Gauze, Impregnated, Water Or Normal Saline (A6228-A6230)

There is no medical necessity for these dressings compared to non-impregnated gauze which is moistened with bulk saline or sterile water. When these dressings are billed, they will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

Hydrocolloid Dressing (A6234-A6241)

Hydrocolloid dressings are covered for use on wounds with light to moderate exudate. Dressing change for hydrocolloid wound covers or hydrocolloid wound fillers is up to 3 times per week.

Hydrogel Dressing (A6231-A6233, A6242-A6248)

Hydrogel dressings are covered when used on full thickness wounds (e.g., stage 3 or 4 ulcers) with minimal or no exudate. Hydrogel dressings are not reasonable and necessary for stage 2 ulcers. Dressing change for hydrogel wound covers without adhesive border or hydrogel wound fillers is up to once per day. Dressing change for hydrogel wound covers with adhesive border is up to 3 times per week.
The quantity of hydrogel filler used for each wound must not exceed the amount needed to line the surface of the wound. Additional amounts used to fill a cavity are not reasonable and necessary. Maximum utilization of code A6248 is 3 units (fluid ounces) per wound in 30 days.
Use of more than one type of hydrogel dressing (filler, cover, or impregnated gauze) on the same wound at the same time is not reasonable and necessary.

Specialty Absorptive Dressing (A6251-A6256)

Specialty absorptive dressings are covered when used for moderately or highly exudative full thickness wounds (e.g., stage 3 or 4 ulcers). Specialty absorptive dressing change is up to once per day for a dressing without an adhesive border and up to every other day for a dressing with a border.

Transparent Film (A6257-A6259)

Transparent film dressings are covered when used on open partial thickness wounds with minimal exudate or closed wounds. Dressing change is up to 3 times per week.

Wound Filler, Not Elsewhere Classified (A6261-A6262)

Coverage is based upon the characteristics of the underlying material(s). Dressing change is up to once per day.

Wound Pouch (A6154)

Dressing change is up to 3 times per week.

Zinc Paste Impregnated Bandage (A6456)

A zinc paste impregnated bandage is covered for the treatment of venous leg ulcers that meet the statutory requirements for a qualifying wound (surgically created or modified, or debrided). Dressing change frequency for A6456 is weekly.
Claims for A6456 used for treatment of venous insufficiency without a qualifying wound or when used for other non-qualifying conditions will be denied as statutorily non-covered, no benefit. Refer to the related Policy Article NON-MEDICAL NECESSITY COVERAGE AND PAYMENT RULES for information about the statutory benefit requirements.

Tape (A4450, A4452)

Tape is covered when needed to hold on a wound cover, elastic roll gauze or non-elastic roll gauze. Additional tape is not required when a wound cover with an adhesive border is used. Tape change is determined by the frequency of change of the wound cover. Quantities of tape submitted must reasonably reflect the size of the wound cover being secured. Utilization per dressing change for wound covers measuring:

- 16 square inches or less is up to 2 units
- 16 to 48 square inches, up to 3 units
- Greater than 48 square inches, up to 4 units

Light Compression Bandage (A6448-A6450), Moderate/High Compression Bandage (A6451, A6452), Self-Adherent Bandage (A6453-A6455), Conforming Bandage (A6442-A6447), Padding Bandage (A6441)

Compression bandages and multi-layer systems are only covered when they are used as a primary or secondary dressing over wound(s) that meet the statutory requirements for a qualifying wound (surgically created or modified, or debrided).
Claims for compression bandages and multi-layer systems used without a qualifying wound or when used for other non-qualifying conditions will be denied as statutorily non-covered, no benefit. Refer to the related Policy Article NON-MEDICAL NECESSITY COVERAGE AND PAYMENT RULES for information about the statutory benefit requirements.
Most compression bandages are reusable. Frequency of replacement would be no more than one per week unless they are part of a multi-layer compression bandage system.
Conforming bandage dressing change is determined by the frequency of change of the selected underlying dressing.

Gradient Compression Wrap (A6545)

A gradient compression wrap is only covered when it is used as a primary or secondary dressing over wounds that meet the statutory requirements for a qualifying wound (surgically created or modified, or debrided).
Claims for gradient compression wraps used without a qualifying wound or when used for other non-qualifying conditions will be denied as statutorily non-covered, no benefit. Refer to the related Policy Article NON-MEDICAL NECESSITY COVERAGE AND PAYMENT RULES for information about the statutory benefit requirements.
Utilization of a gradient compression wrap (A6545) is limited to one per 6 months per leg. Quantities exceeding this amount will be denied as not reasonable and necessary. Refer to the related Surgical Dressings Policy Article NON-MEDICAL NECESSITY COVERAGE AND PAYMENT RULES section for information concerning non-coverage once the ulcer has healed.

Dressing With Materials Not Recognized As Effective

Medicare recognizes the surgical dressing materials described by the product types listed above to be effective. They are considered reasonable and necessary when used as described by this policy. Medicare limits reimbursement to items that have sufficient clinical evidence to demonstrate that use of the item is safe and effective (see Medicare Program Integrity Manual, Chapter 13). Materials that lack sufficient clinical evidence are not recognized as effective and are not considered reasonable and necessary. The safety and effectiveness of the following materials have not been established:

- Balsam of Peru in castor oil
- Iodine – other than iodoform gauze packing
- Carbon Fiber
- Charcoal
- Copper
- Honey
- Silver

The above list is not exhaustive. Any material other than the materials explicitly listed among the reimbursable dressing types discussed above (i.e., alginate, collagen, foam, gauze, hydrocolloid, hydrogel, etc.) is not considered reasonable and necessary until sufficient credible clinical evidence is available to justify inclusion of the material into this policy as a reimbursable surgical dressing component.
Dressings containing multiple components are classified based upon the clinically predominant component. Multi-component dressings predominantly comprised of materials not recognized as effective are not considered reasonable and necessary even if there is some minor proportion of effective materials included in the composition of the complete product. Claims for surgical dressings composed predominantly of materials not listed as reimbursable in the policy will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.
Refer to the related Surgical Dressings Policy Article CODING GUIDELINES for information regarding the coding of dressings made of multiple materials.

MISCELLANEOUS

Surgical dressings are covered for as long as they are reasonable and necessary. Dressings over a percutaneous catheter or tube (e.g., intravascular, epidural, nephrostomy, etc.) are covered as long as the catheter or tube remains in place and after removal until the wound heals. Dressings used over a percutaneous catheter or tube may be included in supply allowances associated with other policies. In this situation, there is no separate coverage under this LCD. (Refer to the related Surgical Dressings Policy Article CODING GUIDELINES).
When a wound cover with an adhesive border is being used, no other dressing is needed on top of it and additional tape is not required. Reasons for use of additional tape must be well documented.
Use of more than one type of wound filler or more than one type of wound cover in a single wound is not reasonable and necessary. The exception is a primary dressing composed of: (1) an alginate or other fiber gelling dressing; or, (2) a saline, water, or hydrogel impregnated gauze dressing. Either of these might need an additional wound cover.
It is not appropriate to use combinations of a hydrating dressing on the same wound at the same time as an absorptive dressing (e.g., hydrogel and alginate).
The frequency of recommended dressing changes depends on the type and use of the surgical dressing. When combinations of primary dressings, secondary dressings, and wound filler are used, the change frequencies of the individual products should be similar. For purposes of this policy, the product in contact with the wound determines the change frequency. It is not reasonable and necessary to use a combination of products with differing change intervals. For example, it is not reasonable and necessary to use a secondary dressing with a weekly change frequency over a primary dressing with a daily change interval. Such claims will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.
It is not reasonable and necessary to use a secondary dressing with primary dressings that contain an impervious backing layer with or without and adhesive border.
Dressing size must be based on and appropriate to the size of the wound. For wound covers, the pad size is usually about 2 inches greater than the dimensions of the wound. For example, a 2 in. x 2 in. wound requires a 4 in. x 4 in. pad size.

The quantity and type of dressings dispensed at any one time must take into account the status of the wound(s), the likelihood of change, and the recent use of dressings.
Dressing needs may change frequently (e.g., weekly) in the early phases of wound treatment and/or with heavily draining wounds. Suppliers are required to monitor the quantity of dressings that the beneficiary is actually using and to adjust their provision of dressings accordingly. Refer to the REFILL REQUIREMENTS section for additional information.
Surgical dressings must be tailored to the specific needs of an individual beneficiary. When surgical dressings are provided in kits, only those components of the kit that meet the definition of a surgical dressing, that are ordered by the treating practitioner, and that are reasonable and necessary are covered.

GENERAL

A Standard Written Order (SWO) must be communicated to the supplier before a claim is submitted. If the supplier bills for an item addressed in this policy without first receiving a completed SWO, the claim shall be denied as not reasonable and necessary.
For Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies (DMEPOS) base items that require a Written Order Prior to Delivery (WOPD), the supplier must have received a signed SWO before the DMEPOS item is delivered to a beneficiary. If a supplier delivers a DMEPOS item without first receiving a WOPD, the claim shall be denied as not reasonable and necessary. Refer to the LCD-related Policy Article, located at the bottom of this policy under the Related Local Coverage Documents section.
For DMEPOS base items that require a WOPD, and also require separately billed associated options, accessories, and/or supplies, the supplier must have received a WOPD which lists the base item and which may list all the associated options, accessories, and/or supplies that are separately billed prior to the delivery of the items. In this scenario, if the supplier separately bills for associated options, accessories, and/or supplies without first receiving a completed and signed WOPD of the base item prior to delivery, the claim(s) shall be denied as not reasonable and necessary.
An item/service is correctly coded when it meets all the coding guidelines listed in CMS HCPCS guidelines, LCDs, LCD-related Policy Articles, or DME MAC articles. Claims that do not meet coding guidelines shall be denied as not reasonable and necessary/incorrectly coded.
Proof of delivery (POD) is a Supplier Standard and DMEPOS suppliers are required to maintain POD documentation in their files. Proof of delivery documentation must be made available to the Medicare contractor upon request. All services that do not have appropriate proof of delivery from the supplier shall be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

REFILL REQUIREMENTS

For DMEPOS items and supplies provided on a recurring basis, billing must be based on prospective, not retrospective use. For DMEPOS products that are supplied as refills to the original order, suppliers must contact the beneficiary prior to dispensing the refill and not automatically ship on a pre-determined basis, even if authorized by the beneficiary. This shall be done to ensure that the refilled item remains reasonable and necessary, existing supplies are approaching exhaustion, and to confirm any changes or modifications to the order. Contact with the beneficiary or designee regarding refills must take place no sooner than 14 calendar days prior to the delivery/shipping date. For delivery of refills, the supplier must deliver the DMEPOS product no sooner than 10 calendar days prior to the end of usage for the current product. This is regardless of which delivery method is utilized.
For all DMEPOS items that are provided on a recurring basis, suppliers are required to have contact with the beneficiary or caregiver/designee prior to dispensing a new supply of items. Suppliers must

not deliver refills without a refill request from a beneficiary. Items delivered without a valid, documented refill request will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.
Suppliers must not dispense a quantity of supplies exceeding a beneficiary's expected utilization.
Suppliers must stay attuned to changed or atypical utilization patterns on the part of their clients.
Suppliers must verify with the treating practitioner that any changed or atypical utilization is warranted. Regardless of utilization, no more than a month’s supply of dressings may be provided at one time, unless there is documentation to support the necessity of greater quantities in the home setting in an individual case.

Summary of Evidence

N/A

Analysis of Evidence (Rationale for Determination)

N/A

Coding Information

CPT/HCPCS Codes

Expand All | Collapse All

Group 1

(133 Codes)

Group 1 Paragraph

The appearance of a code in this section does not necessarily indicate coverage.
HCPCS MODIFIERS:
A1 – Dressing for one wound
A2 – Dressing for two wounds
A3 – Dressing for three wounds
A4 – Dressing for four wounds
A5 – Dressing for five wounds
A6 – Dressing for six wounds
A7 – Dressing for seven wounds
A8 – Dressing for eight wounds
A9 – Dressing for nine or more wounds
AW – Item furnished in conjunction with a surgical dressing
EY – No physician or other licensed health care provider order for this item or service
GY - Item or service statutorily noncovered or does not meet the definition of any Medicare benefit
LT - Left side
RT - Right side
HCPCS CODES:

Group 1 Codes

Code	Description
A4450	TAPE, NON-WATERPROOF, PER 18 SQUARE INCHES
A4452	TAPE, WATERPROOF, PER 18 SQUARE INCHES
A4461	SURGICAL DRESSING HOLDER, NON-REUSABLE, EACH
A4463	SURGICAL DRESSING HOLDER, REUSABLE, EACH
A4465	NON-ELASTIC BINDER FOR EXTREMITY
A4490	SURGICAL STOCKINGS ABOVE KNEE LENGTH, EACH
A4495	SURGICAL STOCKINGS THIGH LENGTH, EACH
A4500	SURGICAL STOCKINGS BELOW KNEE LENGTH, EACH
A4510	SURGICAL STOCKINGS FULL LENGTH, EACH

Code	Description
A4649	SURGICAL SUPPLY; MISCELLANEOUS
A6010	COLLAGEN BASED WOUND FILLER, DRY FORM, STERILE, PER GRAM OF COLLAGEN
A6011	COLLAGEN BASED WOUND FILLER, GEL/PASTE, PER GRAM OF COLLAGEN
A6021	COLLAGEN DRESSING, STERILE, SIZE 16 SQ. IN. OR LESS, EACH
A6022	COLLAGEN DRESSING, STERILE, SIZE MORE THAN 16 SQ. IN. BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 48 SQ. IN., EACH
A6023	COLLAGEN DRESSING, STERILE, SIZE MORE THAN 48 SQ. IN., EACH
A6024	COLLAGEN DRESSING WOUND FILLER, STERILE, PER 6 INCHES
A6025	GEL SHEET FOR DERMAL OR EPIDERMAL APPLICATION, (E.G., SILICONE, HYDROGEL, OTHER), EACH
A6154	WOUND POUCH, EACH
A6196	ALGINATE OR OTHER FIBER GELLING DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE 16 SQ. IN. OR LESS, EACH DRESSING
A6197	ALGINATE OR OTHER FIBER GELLING DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 16 SQ. IN. BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 48 SQ. IN., EACH DRESSING
A6198	ALGINATE OR OTHER FIBER GELLING DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 48 SQ. IN., EACH DRESSING
A6199	ALGINATE OR OTHER FIBER GELLING DRESSING, WOUND FILLER, STERILE, PER 6 INCHES
A6203	COMPOSITE DRESSING, STERILE, PAD SIZE 16 SQ. IN. OR LESS, WITH ANY SIZE ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6204	COMPOSITE DRESSING, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 16 SQ. IN. BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 48 SQ. IN., WITH ANY SIZE ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6205	COMPOSITE DRESSING, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 48 SQ. IN., WITH ANY SIZE ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6206	CONTACT LAYER, STERILE, 16 SQ. IN. OR LESS, EACH DRESSING
A6207	CONTACT LAYER, STERILE, MORE THAN 16 SQ. IN. BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 48 SQ. IN., EACH DRESSING
A6208	CONTACT LAYER, STERILE, MORE THAN 48 SQ. IN., EACH DRESSING
A6209	FOAM DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE 16 SQ. IN. OR LESS, WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6210	FOAM DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 16 SQ. IN. BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 48 SQ. IN., WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6211	FOAM DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 48 SQ. IN., WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6212	FOAM DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE 16 SQ. IN. OR LESS, WITH ANY SIZE ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6213	FOAM DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 16 SQ. IN. BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 48 SQ. IN., WITH ANY SIZE ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6214	FOAM DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 48 SQ. IN., WITH ANY SIZE ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6215	FOAM DRESSING, WOUND FILLER, STERILE, PER GRAM

Code	Description
A6216	GAUZE, NON-IMPREGNATED, NON-STERILE, PAD SIZE 16 SQ. IN. OR LESS, WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6217	GAUZE, NON-IMPREGNATED, NON-STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 16 SQ. IN. BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 48 SQ. IN., WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6218	GAUZE, NON-IMPREGNATED, NON-STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 48 SQ. IN., WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6219	GAUZE, NON-IMPREGNATED, STERILE, PAD SIZE 16 SQ. IN. OR LESS, WITH ANY SIZE ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6220	GAUZE, NON-IMPREGNATED, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 16 SQ. IN. BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 48 SQ. IN., WITH ANY SIZE ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6221	GAUZE, NON-IMPREGNATED, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 48 SQ. IN., WITH ANY SIZE ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6222	GAUZE, IMPREGNATED WITH OTHER THAN WATER, NORMAL SALINE, OR HYDROGEL, STERILE, PAD SIZE 16 SQ. IN. OR LESS, WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6223	GAUZE, IMPREGNATED WITH OTHER THAN WATER, NORMAL SALINE, OR HYDROGEL, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 16 SQ. IN., BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 48 SQ. IN., WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6224	GAUZE, IMPREGNATED WITH OTHER THAN WATER, NORMAL SALINE, OR HYDROGEL, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 48 SQ. IN., WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6228	GAUZE, IMPREGNATED, WATER OR NORMAL SALINE, STERILE, PAD SIZE 16 SQ. IN. OR LESS, WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6229	GAUZE, IMPREGNATED, WATER OR NORMAL SALINE, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 16 SQ. IN. BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 48 SQ. IN., WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6230	GAUZE, IMPREGNATED, WATER OR NORMAL SALINE, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 48 SQ. IN., WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6231	GAUZE, IMPREGNATED, HYDROGEL, FOR DIRECT WOUND CONTACT, STERILE, PAD SIZE 16 SQ. IN. OR LESS, EACH DRESSING
A6232	GAUZE, IMPREGNATED, HYDROGEL, FOR DIRECT WOUND CONTACT, STERILE, PAD SIZE GREATER THAN 16 SQ. IN., BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 48 SQ. IN., EACH DRESSING
A6233	GAUZE, IMPREGNATED, HYDROGEL, FOR DIRECT WOUND CONTACT, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 48 SQ. IN., EACH DRESSING
A6234	HYDROCOLLOID DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE 16 SQ. IN. OR LESS, WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6235	HYDROCOLLOID DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 16 SQ. IN. BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 48 SQ. IN., WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6236	HYDROCOLLOID DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 48 SQ. IN., WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6237	HYDROCOLLOID DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE 16 SQ. IN. OR LESS, WITH ANY SIZE ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING

Code	Description
A6238	HYDROCOLLOID DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 16 SQ. IN. BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 48 SQ. IN., WITH ANY SIZE ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6239	HYDROCOLLOID DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 48 SQ. IN., WITH ANY SIZE ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6240	HYDROCOLLOID DRESSING, WOUND FILLER, PASTE, STERILE, PER OUNCE
A6241	HYDROCOLLOID DRESSING, WOUND FILLER, DRY FORM, STERILE, PER GRAM
A6242	HYDROGEL DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE 16 SQ. IN. OR LESS, WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6243	HYDROGEL DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 16 SQ. IN. BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 48 SQ. IN., WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6244	HYDROGEL DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 48 SQ. IN., WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6245	HYDROGEL DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE 16 SQ. IN. OR LESS, WITH ANY SIZE ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6246	HYDROGEL DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 16 SQ. IN. BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 48 SQ. IN., WITH ANY SIZE ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6247	HYDROGEL DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 48 SQ. IN., WITH ANY SIZE ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6248	HYDROGEL DRESSING, WOUND FILLER, GEL, PER FLUID OUNCE
A6250	SKIN SEALANTS, PROTECTANTS, MOISTURIZERS, OINTMENTS, ANY TYPE, ANY SIZE
A6251	SPECIALTY ABSORPTIVE DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE 16 SQ. IN. OR LESS, WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6252	SPECIALTY ABSORPTIVE DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 16 SQ. IN. BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 48 SQ. IN., WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6253	SPECIALTY ABSORPTIVE DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 48 SQ. IN., WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6254	SPECIALTY ABSORPTIVE DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE 16 SQ. IN. OR LESS, WITH ANY SIZE ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6255	SPECIALTY ABSORPTIVE DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 16 SQ. IN. BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 48 SQ. IN., WITH ANY SIZE ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6256	SPECIALTY ABSORPTIVE DRESSING, WOUND COVER, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 48 SQ. IN., WITH ANY SIZE ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6257	TRANSPARENT FILM, STERILE, 16 SQ. IN. OR LESS, EACH DRESSING
A6258	TRANSPARENT FILM, STERILE, MORE THAN 16 SQ. IN. BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 48 SQ. IN., EACH DRESSING
A6259	TRANSPARENT FILM, STERILE, MORE THAN 48 SQ. IN., EACH DRESSING
A6260	WOUND CLEANSERS, ANY TYPE, ANY SIZE
A6261	WOUND FILLER, GEL/PASTE, PER FLUID OUNCE, NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED
A6262	WOUND FILLER, DRY FORM, PER GRAM, NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED
A6266	GAUZE, IMPREGNATED, OTHER THAN WATER, NORMAL SALINE, OR ZINC PASTE, STERILE, ANY WIDTH, PER LINEAR YARD

Code	Description
A6402	GAUZE, NON-IMPREGNATED, STERILE, PAD SIZE 16 SQ. IN. OR LESS, WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6403	GAUZE, NON-IMPREGNATED, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 16 SQ. IN. LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 48 SQ. IN., WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6404	GAUZE, NON-IMPREGNATED, STERILE, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 48 SQ. IN., WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING
A6407	PACKING STRIPS, NON-IMPREGNATED, STERILE, UP TO 2 INCHES IN WIDTH, PER LINEAR YARD
A6410	EYE PAD, STERILE, EACH
A6411	EYE PAD, NON-STERILE, EACH
A6412	EYE PATCH, OCCLUSIVE, EACH
A6413	ADHESIVE BANDAGE, FIRST-AID TYPE, ANY SIZE, EACH
A6441	PADDING BANDAGE, NON-ELASTIC, NON-WOVEN/NON-KNITTED, WIDTH GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO THREE INCHES AND LESS THAN FIVE INCHES, PER YARD
A6442	CONFORMING BANDAGE, NON-ELASTIC, KNITTED/WOVEN, NON-STERILE, WIDTH LESS THAN THREE INCHES, PER YARD
A6443	CONFORMING BANDAGE, NON-ELASTIC, KNITTED/WOVEN, NON-STERILE, WIDTH GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO THREE INCHES AND LESS THAN FIVE INCHES, PER YARD
A6444	CONFORMING BANDAGE, NON-ELASTIC, KNITTED/WOVEN, NON-STERILE, WIDTH GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO 5 INCHES, PER YARD
A6445	CONFORMING BANDAGE, NON-ELASTIC, KNITTED/WOVEN, STERILE, WIDTH LESS THAN THREE INCHES, PER YARD
A6446	CONFORMING BANDAGE, NON-ELASTIC, KNITTED/WOVEN, STERILE, WIDTH GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO THREE INCHES AND LESS THAN FIVE INCHES, PER YARD
A6447	CONFORMING BANDAGE, NON-ELASTIC, KNITTED/WOVEN, STERILE, WIDTH GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO FIVE INCHES, PER YARD
A6448	LIGHT COMPRESSION BANDAGE, ELASTIC, KNITTED/WOVEN, WIDTH LESS THAN THREE INCHES, PER YARD
A6449	LIGHT COMPRESSION BANDAGE, ELASTIC, KNITTED/WOVEN, WIDTH GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO THREE INCHES AND LESS THAN FIVE INCHES, PER YARD
A6450	LIGHT COMPRESSION BANDAGE, ELASTIC, KNITTED/WOVEN, WIDTH GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO FIVE INCHES, PER YARD
A6451	MODERATE COMPRESSION BANDAGE, ELASTIC, KNITTED/WOVEN, LOAD RESISTANCE OF 1.25 TO 1.34 FOOT POUNDS AT 50% MAXIMUM STRETCH, WIDTH GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO THREE INCHES AND LESS THAN FIVE INCHES, PER YARD
A6452	HIGH COMPRESSION BANDAGE, ELASTIC, KNITTED/WOVEN, LOAD RESISTANCE GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO 1.35 FOOT POUNDS AT 50% MAXIMUM STRETCH, WIDTH GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO THREE INCHES AND LESS THAN FIVE INCHES, PER YARD
A6453	SELF-ADHERENT BANDAGE, ELASTIC, NON-KNITTED/NON-WOVEN, WIDTH LESS THAN THREE INCHES, PER YARD
A6454	SELF-ADHERENT BANDAGE, ELASTIC, NON-KNITTED/NON-WOVEN, WIDTH GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO THREE INCHES AND LESS THAN FIVE INCHES, PER YARD

Code	Description
A6455	SELF-ADHERENT BANDAGE, ELASTIC, NON-KNITTED/NON-WOVEN, WIDTH GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO FIVE INCHES, PER YARD
A6456	ZINC PASTE IMPREGNATED BANDAGE, NON-ELASTIC, KNITTED/WOVEN, WIDTH GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO THREE INCHES AND LESS THAN FIVE INCHES, PER YARD
A6457	TUBULAR DRESSING WITH OR WITHOUT ELASTIC, ANY WIDTH, PER LINEAR YARD
A6501	COMPRESSION BURN GARMENT, BODYSUIT (HEAD TO FOOT), CUSTOM FABRICATED
A6502	COMPRESSION BURN GARMENT, CHIN STRAP, CUSTOM FABRICATED
A6503	COMPRESSION BURN GARMENT, FACIAL HOOD, CUSTOM FABRICATED
A6504	COMPRESSION BURN GARMENT, GLOVE TO WRIST, CUSTOM FABRICATED
A6505	COMPRESSION BURN GARMENT, GLOVE TO ELBOW, CUSTOM FABRICATED
A6506	COMPRESSION BURN GARMENT, GLOVE TO AXILLA, CUSTOM FABRICATED
A6507	COMPRESSION BURN GARMENT, FOOT TO KNEE LENGTH, CUSTOM FABRICATED
A6508	COMPRESSION BURN GARMENT, FOOT TO THIGH LENGTH, CUSTOM FABRICATED
A6509	COMPRESSION BURN GARMENT, UPPER TRUNK TO WAIST INCLUDING ARM OPENINGS (VEST), CUSTOM FABRICATED
A6510	COMPRESSION BURN GARMENT, TRUNK, INCLUDING ARMS DOWN TO LEG OPENINGS (LEOTARD), CUSTOM FABRICATED
A6511	COMPRESSION BURN GARMENT, LOWER TRUNK INCLUDING LEG OPENINGS (PANTY), CUSTOM FABRICATED
A6512	COMPRESSION BURN GARMENT, NOT OTHERWISE CLASSIFIED
A6513	COMPRESSION BURN MASK, FACE AND/OR NECK, PLASTIC OR EQUAL, CUSTOM FABRICATED
A6530	GRADIENT COMPRESSION STOCKING, BELOW KNEE, 18-30 MMHG, EACH
A6531	GRADIENT COMPRESSION STOCKING, BELOW KNEE, 30-40 MMHG, EACH
A6532	GRADIENT COMPRESSION STOCKING, BELOW KNEE, 40-50 MMHG, EACH
A6533	GRADIENT COMPRESSION STOCKING, THIGH LENGTH, 18-30 MMHG, EACH
A6534	GRADIENT COMPRESSION STOCKING, THIGH LENGTH, 30-40 MMHG, EACH
A6535	GRADIENT COMPRESSION STOCKING, THIGH LENGTH, 40-50 MMHG, EACH
A6536	GRADIENT COMPRESSION STOCKING, FULL LENGTH/CHAP STYLE, 18-30 MMHG, EACH
A6537	GRADIENT COMPRESSION STOCKING, FULL LENGTH/CHAP STYLE, 30-40 MMHG, EACH
A6538	GRADIENT COMPRESSION STOCKING, FULL LENGTH/CHAP STYLE, 40-50 MMHG, EACH
A6539	GRADIENT COMPRESSION STOCKING, WAIST LENGTH, 18-30 MMHG, EACH
A6540	GRADIENT COMPRESSION STOCKING, WAIST LENGTH, 30-40 MMHG, EACH
A6541	GRADIENT COMPRESSION STOCKING, WAIST LENGTH, 40-50 MMHG, EACH
A6544	GRADIENT COMPRESSION STOCKING, GARTER BELT
A6545	GRADIENT COMPRESSION WRAP, NON-ELASTIC, BELOW KNEE, 30-50 MM HG, EACH
A6549	GRADIENT COMPRESSION STOCKING/SLEEVE, NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED
A9270	NON-COVERED ITEM OR SERVICE

General Information

Associated Information

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Section 1833(e) of the Social Security Act precludes payment to any provider of services unless "there has been furnished such information as may be necessary in order to determine the amounts due such provider." It is expected that the beneficiary's medical records will reflect the need for the care provided. The beneficiary's medical records include the treating practitioner's office records, hospital records, nursing home records, home health agency records, records from other healthcare professionals and test reports. This documentation must be available upon request.

GENERAL DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to justify payment for DMEPOS items, suppliers must meet the following requirements:

- SWO
- Medical Record Information (including continued need/use if applicable)
- Correct Coding
- Proof of Delivery

Refer to the LCD-related Standard Documentation Requirements article, located at the bottom of this policy under the Related Local Coverage Documents section for additional information regarding these requirements.
Refer to the Supplier Manual for additional information on documentation requirements.
Refer to the DME MAC web sites for additional bulletin articles and other publications related to this LCD.

POLICY SPECIFIC DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Items covered in this LCD have additional policy-specific requirements that must be met to justify Medicare reimbursement.
Refer to the LCD-related Policy article, located at the bottom of this policy under the Related Local Coverage Documents section for additional information.

Miscellaneous

Appendices

The staging of pressure ulcers used in this policy is as follows (National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel, 2019 Revision):

Stage 1 Pressure Injury: Non-blanchable erythema of intact skin
Intact skin with a localized area of non-blanchable erythema, which may appear differently in darkly pigmented skin. Presence of blanchable erythema or changes in sensation, temperature, or firmness may precede visual changes. Color changes do not include purple or maroon discoloration; these may indicate deep tissue pressure injury.
Stage 2 Pressure Injury: Partial-thickness skin loss with exposed dermis
Partial-thickness loss of skin with exposed dermis. The wound bed is viable, pink or red, moist, and may also present as an intact or ruptured serum-filled blister. Adipose (fat) is not visible and deeper tissues are not visible. Granulation tissue, slough and eschar are not present. These injuries commonly result from adverse microclimate and shear in the skin over the pelvis and shear in the heel. This stage should not be used to describe moisture associated skin damage (MASD) including

incontinence associated dermatitis (IAD), intertriginous dermatitis (ITD), medical adhesive related skin injury (MARSI), or traumatic wounds (skin tears, burns, abrasions).
Stage 3 Pressure Injury: Full-thickness skin loss
Full-thickness loss of skin, in which adipose (fat) is visible in the ulcer and granulation tissue and epibole (rolled wound edges) are often present. Slough and/or eschar may be visible. The depth of tissue damage varies by anatomical location; areas of significant adiposity can develop deep wounds. Undermining and tunneling may occur. Fascia, muscle, tendon, ligament, cartilage and/or bone are not exposed. If slough or eschar obscures the extent of tissue loss this is an Unstageable Pressure Injury.
Stage 4 Pressure Injury: Full-thickness skin and tissue loss
Full-thickness skin and tissue loss with exposed or directly palpable fascia, muscle, tendon, ligament, cartilage or bone in the ulcer. Slough and/or eschar may be visible. Epibole (rolled edges), undermining and/or tunneling often occur. Depth varies by anatomical location. If slough or eschar obscures the extent of tissue loss this is an Unstageable Pressure Injury.
Unstageable Pressure Injury: Obscured full-thickness skin and tissue loss
Full-thickness skin and tissue loss in which the extent of tissue damage within the ulcer cannot be confirmed because it is obscured by slough or eschar. If slough or eschar is removed, a Stage 3 or Stage 4 pressure injury will be revealed. Stable eschar (i.e. dry, adherent, intact without erythema or fluctuance) on the heel or ischemic limb should not be softened or removed.
Deep Tissue Pressure Injury: Persistent non-blanchable deep red, maroon or purple discoloration
Intact or non-intact skin with localized area of persistent non-blanchable deep red, maroon, purple discoloration or epidermal separation revealing a dark wound bed or blood-filled blister. Pain and temperature change often precede skin color changes. Discoloration may appear differently in darkly pigmented skin. This injury results from intense and/or prolonged pressure and shear forces at the bone-muscle interface. The wound may evolve rapidly to reveal the actual extent of tissue injury or may resolve without tissue loss. If necrotic tissue, subcutaneous tissue, granulation tissue, fascia, muscle or other underlying structures are visible, this indicates a full thickness pressure injury (Unstageable, Stage 3 or Stage 4). Do not use DTPI to describe vascular, traumatic, neuropathic, or dermatologic conditions.

Utilization Guidelines

Refer to Coverage Indications, Limitations and/or Medical Necessity.

Sources of Information

N/A

Bibliography

N/A

Related Local Coverage Documents

Articles

A55426 - Standard Documentation Requirements for All Claims Submitted to DME MACs
A54563 - Surgical Dressings - Policy Article

Related National Coverage Documents

N/A