

Hosiery Products - Recommended prescription quantities

Summary

Guidance on appropriate ordering quantities for hosiery products supplied on FP10 prescriptions.

- To ensure expenditure in this area is appropriate and consistent.
- To provide information to encourage appropriate prescribing in primary care.
- To ensure appropriate prescribing quantities for this group of patients to avoid waste.

Aim/Purpose/Background

- Identify patients prescribed hosiery appliances.
- Review repeat prescriptions to ensure appropriate prescribing quantities and issues per annum are restricted in line with product lifespan.
- Ensure prescriptions and products are labelled with suitable information as per ordering guidance so that patients and prescribing clerks are aware of these recommendations.
- Ensure that the indication for prescribing hosiery is recorded.
- This is a cost and quality intervention.

Initial and ongoing supplies of hosiery appliances:

- Hosiery supplies are generally initiated by GPs or practice nurses and in some cases specialist nurses.
- Patients need to be accurately measured to ensure that the correct size is prescribed for the patient. This is normally done by the practice nurse but can also be done by community pharmacists.
- Dispensed hosiery should be supplied with information on correct washing instructions. This information should be highlighted to the patient and used as a guide instructing patients when it is appropriate to receive replacement hosiery prescriptions.
- Repeat orders should be limited to 4 pairs per annum, supplied as 2 pairs every six months, if a patient is wearing hosiery on both legs (reduce quantity by half for one leg).
- All requests for prescriptions should be initiated by the patient. The preferred route is direct to the GP practice, to enable a robust audit trail.
Information taken from [CKS](#).

Guidance for Action

- Run a report on patients currently prescribed hosiery appliances.
- Review quantities prescribed of hosiery garments against the recommendations attached. This gives suggested prescribing quantities, prescription directions and notes to assist the prescriber.
- Practices should ensure that they are aware of the normal usage rate by the patient and that any irregularities are flagged to the GP and reviewed with the patient/carer.
- Frequent requests for additional supplies due to damaged hosiery should be discussed with patient to establish possible cause. It may be necessary for the patient to be re-measured and alternative product style tried e.g. switching to open toe garments.



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<u>Hosiery</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Wash, wear and when to change</u>	<u>Prescribing Recommendations</u>	<u>NICE: CKS Replacing stockings</u>
Activa	1,2,3	http://www.activahealthcare.co.uk/common-questions#ActivaBritishStandardCompressionHosiery	Every 3 months. After 3 months of regular wear the garment loses elasticity and is unable to provide adequate compression. We recommend prescribing 2 pairs at once, one to wear, one to wash and replacing both after six months	2 pairs every 6 months (Maximum 4 pairs per annum)	Compression stockings should be replaced every 3–6 months.
ActiLymph		as above	Lasts up to 100 washes (see specific washing instructions). Recommendations: wash one - wear one	2 pairs every 6 months (Maximum 4 pairs per annum)	Provide at least two stockings (or two pairs if used on both legs), so that one can be worn while the other is being washed and dried.
Activa Leg Ulcer Hosiery Kit and Liners		as above	Lasts up to 100 washes (see specific washing instructions).	After 3 months of wear a new Rx is required	The stocking should be replaced earlier if any defects or damage become apparent or, if on stretching, the stocking does not return to its original shape.
Activa/ ActiLymph Made-to-Measure		Discussion with customer services	Lasts up to 100 washes (see specific washing instructions).	Company recommends that patients are prescribed two pairs every 6 months	Ideally, each time a stocking is replaced, the leg should be re-measured.
Altimed - Altiform, Altiven, Altipress	1,2,3 , MTM	http://altimed.co.uk/pharmacy/helping-your-customers/	Designed to last for a minimum of 3 months if cared for properly.	2 pairs every 6 months (Maximum 4 pairs per annum)	The life of the stocking can be prolonged by correct washing. Stockings should be hand washed at about 40°C (a comfortable hand temperature) and dried away from direct heat.



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Carolon		http://hrhealthcare.co.uk/carolon-medcomp-instructions.html	All Carolon Medical Compression Hosiery is tested to 90 washes. Maximum recommended wear period for these stockings is 6 months.	2 pairs every 6 months (Maximum 4 pairs per annum)	CONCLUSION:
Credenhill	MTM	Discussion with customer services	Company recommends that patients are prescribed two pairs every 6 months	2 pairs every 6 months (Maximum 4 pairs per annum)	
Jobst	All	http://www.jobst.com/mainnavigation/wear-care/wearing-compression-for-the-first-time.html	Replace your stockings or sleeve at about every 3-6 months depending on how often you are wearing and how you are caring for your garment	Absolute maximum: 2 garments per limb every 6 months	Prescribing Recommendations: For both legs - prescribe 2 pairs at once, one to wear, one to wash and replace both after six months. For one leg reduce quantity by half. Replace sooner if damaged.
Medi UK	All	http://epaper.ims.medi.de/en_GB/Physicians/99A93_201401_FP10_For_mulary_Guide_UK/blaet_terkatalog/index.html?lang=en_GB	The garments have an expected lifespan of 6 months of normal daily use and can be washed on a gentle machine wash cycle. Patients are usually supplied with two garments per limb, one to wash and one to wear. Patients would normally be reviewed by the prescriber or lymphoedema specialist every 6 months, however significant changes in patient condition, weight loss or weight gain may shorten this period.	Absolute maximum: 2 garments per limb every 6 months	

