

# Cost and Utilization of Lymphedema Compression Garments



Garment Type	Standard-Fit, per piece (current average retail price)	Custom-Fit, per piece (current average retail price)
Arm Sleeve	\$81	\$202
Hand/Finger Glove	\$132	\$354
Hand/Forearm Gauntlet	\$67	\$161
Knee High Stocking	\$64	\$228
Thigh High Stocking	\$87	\$347
Waist High Stockings	\$159	\$960

## Chronic Lymphatic System Failure (Lymphedema) most commonly manifests in the extremities.

- The above six types of compression garments constitute **90%** of all prescribed compression garments:<sup>1</sup>

## Typically, patients utilize four compression garments per year for each affected body part.

- Compression garments have a lifespan of six months.
- Patients must have two garments for each affected body part at all times - one is worn while the other is laundered.

## A preponderance of lymphedema occurs in the upper extremities (less expensive garments).

- Due to the high prevalence of breast cancer-related lymphedema, upper extremity lymphedema accounts for an estimated 85-87% of all cases.<sup>2 3 4</sup>
- When diagnosed and treated promptly, breast-cancer-related lymphedema patients are likely to be able to use a standard-fit garment, and often only need a sleeve.<sup>5</sup>

## Currently, more than 50% of all lymphedema patients are able to use standard-fit garments, as prescribed by a physician, to treat and manage their condition.<sup>6</sup>

- An analysis performed by Avalere Health estimated utilization of standard-fit versus custom-fit to be evenly split, but this assumption was based on utilization data collected only from suppliers who carry both types of products. Since there are many other suppliers who only carry standard-fit products that were not accounted for in their analysis, the actual utilization of standard-fit garments is greater than 50%.

## Coverage of lymphedema compression garments would, in time, enable an even greater proportion of patients to utilize standard-fit garments by preventing the disease progression that necessitates the use of custom-fit products.<sup>7 8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Based on pricing and utilization data collected from the four largest US manufacturers of both standard-fit and custom-fit compression garments:

[jobst-usa.com](http://jobst-usa.com), [mediusa.com](http://mediusa.com), [lohmman-rauscher.us](http://lohmman-rauscher.us), [juzousa.com](http://juzousa.com)

<sup>2</sup> <https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/>

<sup>3</sup> Rockson SG, Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci. 1131:147-154 (2008)

<sup>4</sup> Franks PJ, Palliative Medicine 2005; 19: 300-313; Lymphedema: estimating the size of the problem

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.lympho.org/portfolio/best-practice-for-the-management-of-lymphoedema/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://lymphedematreatmentact.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Avalere-Score.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Lymphoedema Framework. Template for Practice: compression hosiery in lymphoedema. London: MEP Ltd, 2006.

<sup>8</sup> [International Lymphoedema Framework - Best Practice for the Management of Lymphedema 2nd Edition 2012.](#)