

# Local Coverage Determination (LCD): Surgical Dressings (L33831)

Links in PDF documents are not guaranteed to work. To follow a web link, please use the MCD Website.

---

## Contractor Information

<b>Contractor Name</b>	<b>Contract Type</b>	<b>Contract Number</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>State(s)</b>
<a href="#">CGS Administrators, LLC</a>	DME MAC	17013 - DME MAC	J-B	Illinois Indiana Kentucky Michigan Minnesota Ohio Wisconsin Alabama Arkansas Colorado Florida Georgia Louisiana Mississippi North Carolina New Mexico Oklahoma Puerto Rico South Carolina Tennessee Texas Virginia Virgin Islands West Virginia
<a href="#">CGS Administrators, LLC</a>	DME MAC	18003 - DME MAC	J-C	Connecticut District of Columbia Delaware Massachusetts Maryland Maine New Hampshire New Jersey New York - Entire State Pennsylvania Rhode Island Vermont Alaska American Samoa Arizona California - Entire State Guam Hawaii
<a href="#">Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC</a>	DME MAC	16013 - DME MAC	J-A	Iowa Idaho Kansas Missouri - Entire State Montana North Dakota Nebraska Nevada Oregon South Dakota
<a href="#">Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC</a>	DME MAC	19003 - DME MAC	J-D	

## LCD Information

### Document Information

LCD ID L33831	Original Effective Date For services performed on or after 10/01/2015
------------------	--

Original ICD-9 LCD ID <a href="#">L11460</a> <a href="#">L11449</a> <a href="#">L27222</a> <a href="#">L11471</a>	Revision Effective Date For services performed on or after 07/24/2017
---	--

	Revision Ending Date N/A
--	-----------------------------

LCD Title Surgical Dressings	Retirement Date N/A
---------------------------------	------------------------

Proposed LCD in Comment Period N/A	Notice Period Start Date N/A
---------------------------------------	---------------------------------

Source Proposed LCD <a href="#">DL33831</a>	Notice Period End Date N/A
--	-------------------------------

AMA CPT / ADA CDT / AHA NUBC Copyright Statement  
CPT only copyright 2002-2017 American Medical Association. All Rights Reserved. CPT is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. Applicable FARS/DFARS Apply to Government Use. Fee schedules, relative value units, conversion factors and/or related components are not assigned by the AMA, are not part of CPT, and the AMA is not recommending their use. The AMA does not directly or indirectly practice medicine or dispense medical services. The AMA assumes no liability for data contained or not contained herein.

The Code on Dental Procedures and Nomenclature (Code) is published in Current Dental Terminology (CDT). Copyright © American Dental Association. All rights reserved. CDT and CDT-2016 are trademarks of the American Dental Association.

UB-04 Manual. OFFICIAL UB-04 DATA SPECIFICATIONS MANUAL, 2014, is copyrighted by American Hospital Association ("AHA"), Chicago, Illinois. No portion of OFFICIAL UB-04 MANUAL may be reproduced, sorted in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior express, written consent of AHA." Health Forum reserves the right to change the copyright notice from time to time upon written notice to Company.

## 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.

## **GENERAL**

A Detailed Written Order (DWO) (if applicable) must be received by the supplier before a claim is submitted. If the supplier bills for an item addressed in this policy without first receiving a completed DWO, the claim shall be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

Medicare provides reimbursement for surgical dressing under the Surgical Dressings Benefit. This benefit only provides coverage for primary and secondary surgical dressing used 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 III or IV ulcers); and alginate or other fiber gelling dressing fillers for moderately to highly exudative full thickness wound cavities (e.g., stage III or IV 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 III or IV 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, depending on the specific product. 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 III or IV 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 III or IV ulcers) with minimal or no exudate. Hydrogel dressings are not reasonable and necessary for stage II 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 III or IV 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 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 an 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 physician, and that are reasonable and necessary are covered.

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 ordering physicians 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.

[Back to Top](#)

---

## **Coding Information**

Bill Type Codes:

Contractors may specify Bill Types to help providers identify those Bill Types typically used to report this service. Absence of a Bill Type does not guarantee that the policy does not apply to that Bill Type. Complete absence of all Bill Types indicates that coverage is not influenced by Bill Type and the policy should be assumed to apply equally to all claims.

N/A

Revenue Codes:

Contractors may specify Revenue Codes to help providers identify those Revenue Codes typically used to report this service. In most instances Revenue Codes are purely advisory. Unless specified in the policy, services reported under other Revenue Codes are equally subject to this coverage determination. Complete absence of all Revenue Codes indicates that coverage is not influenced by Revenue Code and the policy should be assumed to apply equally to all Revenue Codes.

N/A

CPT/HCPCS 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 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:**

- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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

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

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

**Group 1 Paragraph:**

Not specified

**Group 1 Codes:** N/A

ICD-10 Codes that DO NOT Support Medical Necessity

**Group 1 Paragraph:**

Not specified

**Group 1 Codes:** N/A

ICD-10 Additional Information

[Back to Top](#)

---

## **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 physician'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:

- Prescription (orders)
- 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 Ulcer Advisory Panel, 2016 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 (MARS), 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 and Basis for Decision

1. Adkins CL. Wound care dressings and choices for care of wounds in the home. *Home Health Nurse*. 2013;31(5):259–67.
2. Boateng JS, Matthews KH, Stevens HNE, Eccleston GM. Wound healing dressings and drug delivery systems: A review. *J Pharm Sci*. 2008;97(8):2892–2923.
3. Daley B. Wound Care Treatment & Management. 2014. Updated February 08, 2017. Available at: [Medscape](#)
4. 2014 Prevention and Treatment of Pressure Ulcers: Clinical Practice Guideline Available at: <http://www.npuap.org/resources/educational-and-clinical-resources/prevention-and-treatment-of-pressure-ulcers-clinical-practice-guideline/>
5. Fonder MA, Lazarus GS, Cowan DA, Aronson-Cook B, Kohli AR, Mamelak AJ. Treating the chronic wound: A practical approach to the care of nonhealing wounds and wound care dressings. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2008;58(2):185–206.
6. Gethin G, Cowman S. Retracted: Manuka honey vs. hydrogel - a prospective, open label, multicentre, randomised controlled trial to compare desloughing efficacy and healing outcomes in venous ulcers: An open label, multicentre, prospective study. *J Clin Nurs*. 2009;18(3):466–474.
7. Guillaume Chaby M, Patricia Senet M, Michel Vaneau P, Philippe Martel M. Dressings for Acute and Chronic Wounds. *Arch Dermatol* 2007;143(10):1297–1304.
8. Hansson C, Persson LM, Stenquist B, et al. The effects of cadexomer iodine paste in the treatment of venous leg ulcers compared with hydrocolloid dressing and paraffin gauze dressing. *Int J Dermatol*. 1998;37(5):390–396.
9. Harding K, Gottrup F, Jawien A, et al. A prospective, multi-centre, randomised, open label, parallel, comparative study to evaluate effects of AQUACEL(R) Ag and Urgotul(R) Silver dressing on healing of chronic venous leg ulcers. *Int Wound J*. 2012;9(3):285–294.
10. Kiman CN. Pressure Ulcers and Wound Care Treatment & Management. *Medscape Ref*. 2015. Updated March 15, 2017. Available at: [Medscape](#)
11. Lammoglia-Ordiales L, Vega-Memije ME, Herrera-Arellano A, et al. A randomised comparative trial on the use of a hydrogel with tepescohuite extract (Mimosa tenuiflora cortex extract-2G) in the treatment of venous leg ulcers. *Int Wound J*. 2012;9(4):412–418.
12. National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (Great Britain). Surgical site infection prevention and treatment of surgical site infection. October 2008. Available at: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg74/evidence/full-guideline-242005933>
13. Palfreyman SJ, Nelson EA, Lochiel R, Michaels JA. Dressings for healing venous leg ulcers. *The Cochrane Collaboration, ed. Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2006;3:CD001103.
14. Schreml S, Klein SM, Babilas P, Karrer S. Wound dressings in chronic wound therapy: Phlebologie. 2013;42(4):189–196.
15. Vaneau M, Chaby G, Guillot B, et al. Consensus panel recommendations for chronic and acute wound dressings. In: *Archives of dermatology*. Vol 143.; 2007:1291–1294.
16. Zenilman J, Valle MF, Malas MB. Chronic Venous Ulcers: A Comparative Effectiveness Review of Treatment Modalities. 2013 AHRQ Publication No. 13(14)-EHC121-EF
17. Dumville JC, Gray TA, Walter CJ, Sharp CA, Page T, Macefield R, Blencowe N, Milne TKG, Reeves BC, Blazeby J. Dressings for the prevention of surgical site infection (Review) *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2016, Issue 12. Art. No.: CD003091.
18. Jull AB, Walker N, Deshpande S. Honey as a topical treatment for wounds *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2013, Issue 2. Article No. CD005083.
19. Dimakakos E, et.al. Infected venous leg ulcer: management with silver-releasing foam dressing. *WOUNDS* 2009;21(1):4-8.
20. Jull A, Walker N, Parag V, Molan P, Rodgers A. Randomized clinical trial of honey-impregnated dressings for venous leg ulcers. *Br J Surg*. 2008 Feb;95(2):175-82.
21. Qaseem A, MD, PhD, MHA; Humphrey, L, MD, MPH; Forciea, MA, MD; Starkey M, PhD; and Denberg, T, MD, PhD. Treatment of Pressure Ulcers: A Clinical Practice Guideline From the American College of Physicians. *Ann Intern Med*. 2015;162:370-379.
22. Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society. 2011 Guideline for Management of Wounds in Patients with Lower-Extremity Venous Disease. *Clinical Practice Guideline Series 4*. Available at: [Guideline Central](#)
23. Broussard KC, Powers JG. Wound dressings: selecting the most appropriate type. *Am J Clin Dermatol*. 2013 Dec;14(6):449-59.
24. Powers JG, Morton LM, Phillips TJ. Dressings for chronic wounds. *Dermatol Ther*. 2013 May-Jun;26(3):197-206.
25. Nelson EA, Bell-Syer SEM. Compression for preventing recurrence of venous ulcers. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2012; Issue 8. Art. No.: CD002303. doi:10.1002/14651858.CD002303.
26. 2016 IWGDF guidance on use of interventions to enhance the healing of chronic ulcers of the foot in diabetes. Available at: [Guideline.gov](#)
27. Jorgenson et. al. The silver releasing foam dressing, Contreet Foam, promotes faster healing of critically colonized venous leg ulcers: a randomized, controlled trial. *Intl Wound Journal* 2005; (2)1;64-73.
28. Brizzio et. al. Comparison of low-strength compression stockings with bandages for the treatment of recalcitrant venous ulcers. *J Vasc Surg* 2010; 51(2):410-416.

29. Lasinski BB, Thrift, KM, Squire D, et al. A systematic review of the evidence for complete decongestive therapy in the treatment of lymphedema from 2004 to 2011. *PM&R*. 2012; 4(8): 580-601.
30. Korn et. al. Why insurers should reimburse for compression stockings in patients with chronic venous stasis. *J Vasc Surg* 2002;35(5):950.
31. Yang Q, Kerekes DT, Schultz GS, Gibson DJ. Antibacterial and Flow Rate Assessment of a Nonadherent Layer Interface on a Silver Alginate Dressing. *WOUNDS-A COMPENDIUM OF CLINICAL RESEARCH AND PRACTICE*. 2015;27(1):1-4.
32. O'Meara S, Al-Kurdi D, Ologun Y, Ovington LG, Martyn-St James M, Richardson R. Antibiotics and antiseptics for venous leg ulcers. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2014;1(1), Pub 5.
33. Khadanga S, Dugar D, Karuna T, et al. Effects of Topical Honey Dressing in Decubitus Ulcer. *Asian Journal of Medical Sciences*. 2015;6(4).
34. Kamaratos AV, Tzirogiannis KN, Iraklianos SA, Panoutsopoulos GI, Kanellos IE, Melidonis AI. Manuka honey-impregnated dressings in the treatment of neuropathic diabetic foot ulcers. *International Wound Journal*. 2014;11(3):259-263.
35. Vermeulen H, van Hattem JM, Storm-Versloot MN, Ubbink DT, Westerbos SJ. Topical silver for treating infected wounds. In: *The Cochrane Collaboration, ed. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd; 2007.

[Back to Top](#)

---

## Revision History Information

Revision History Date	Revision History Number	Revision History Explanation	Reason(s) for Change
07/24/2017	R2	<p><b>Revision Effective Date: 07/24/2017</b></p> <p>COVERAGE INDICATIONS, INDICATIONS, LIMITATIONS AND/OR MEDICAL NECESSITY:            Removed: Standard Documentation Language            Added: New reference language and directions to Standard Documentation Requirements            Added: General Requirements            Revised: Refill Requirements</p> <p>DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:            Removed: Standard Documentation Language            Added: General Documentation Requirements            Added: New reference language and directions to Standard Documentation Requirements</p> <p>POLICY SPECIFIC DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:            Removed: Standard Documentation Language            Added: Direction to Standard Documentation Requirements            Removed: Supplier Manual reference from Miscellaneous section            Removed: PIM reference under Appendices            Revised: Pressure ulcer staging criteria per NPUAP 2016 Staging Consensus Conference</p> <p>SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND BASIS FOR DECISION:            Revised: Updated bibliography</p> <p>RELATED LOCAL COVERAGE DOCUMENTS:            Added: LCD-related Standard Documentation Requirements article</p> <p>Effective July 1, 2016 oversight for DME MAC LCDs is the responsibility of CGS Administrators, LLC 18003 and 17013 and Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC 19003 and 16013. No other changes have been made to the LCDs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provider Education/Guidance</li> <li>• Automated Edits to Enforce Reasonable &amp; Necessary Requirements</li> </ul>
07/01/2016	R1	<p>Effective July 1, 2016 oversight for DME MAC LCDs is the responsibility of CGS Administrators, LLC 18003 and 17013 and Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC 19003 and 16013. No other changes have been made to the LCDs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in Assigned States or Affiliated Contract Numbers</li> </ul>

[Back to Top](#)

---

## Associated Documents

Attachments [Surgical Dressing Comment Responses](#) (PDF - 60 KB )

Related Local Coverage Documents Article(s) [A55426 - Standard Documentation Requirements for All Claims Submitted to DME MACs](#)  
[A54563 - Surgical Dressings - Policy Article](#)

Related National Coverage Documents N/A

Public Version(s) Updated on 06/02/2017 with effective dates 07/24/2017 - N/A [Updated on 06/07/2016 with effective dates 07/01/2016 - 07/23/2017](#) [Updated on 04/04/2014 with effective dates 10/01/2015 - N/A](#) [Back to Top](#)

---

## **Keywords**

N/A Read the [LCD Disclaimer](#) [Back to Top](#)



**END OF LOCAL COVERAGE DETERMINATION**

Per the Code of Federal Regulations, 42 C.F.R § 426. 325, only those portions of the currently effective Local Coverage Determination (LCD) that are based on section 1862(a)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act, may be challenged through an acceptable complaint as described in 42 C.F.R § 426.400. Also, per 42 C.F.R § 426.325 items that are not reviewable, and therefore cannot be challenged, include the Policy Article. Please note the distinction of the documents when reviewing the materials.

# Local Coverage Article: Surgical Dressings - Policy Article (A54563)

Links in PDF documents are not guaranteed to work. To follow a web link, please use the MCD Website.

---

## Contractor Information

<b>Contractor Name</b>	<b>Contract Type</b>	<b>Contract Number</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>State(s)</b>
<a href="#">CGS Administrators, LLC</a>	DME MAC	17013 -	DME MAC J-B	Illinois Indiana Kentucky Michigan Minnesota Ohio Wisconsin Alabama Arkansas Colorado Florida Georgia Louisiana Mississippi North Carolina New Mexico Oklahoma Puerto Rico South Carolina Tennessee Texas Virginia Virgin Islands West Virginia
<a href="#">CGS Administrators, LLC</a>	DME MAC	18003 -	DME MAC J-C	Connecticut District of Columbia Delaware Massachusetts Maryland Maine New Hampshire New Jersey New York - Entire State Pennsylvania Rhode Island Vermont Alaska American Samoa Arizona California - Entire State Guam Hawaii Iowa Idaho
<a href="#">Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC</a>	DME MAC	16013 -	DME MAC J-A	Kansas Missouri - Entire State Montana North Dakota Nebraska Nevada Oregon South Dakota
<a href="#">Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC</a>	DME MAC	19003 -	DME MAC J-D	

## Article Information

### General Information

**Article ID**

A54563

**Original Article Effective Date**

10/01/2015

Original ICD-9 Article ID

[A23903](#)**Revision Effective Date**

07/24/2017

**Article Title**

Surgical Dressings - Policy Article

**Revision Ending Date**

N/A

**AMA CPT / ADA CDT / AHA NUBC Copyright Statement**

CPT only copyright 2002-2017 American Medical Association. All Rights Reserved. CPT is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. Applicable FARS/DFARS Apply to Government Use. Fee schedules, relative value units, conversion factors and/or related components are not assigned by the AMA, are not part of CPT, and the AMA is not recommending their use. The AMA does not directly or indirectly practice medicine or dispense medical services. The AMA assumes no liability for data contained or not contained herein.

**Retirement Date**

N/A

The Code on Dental Procedures and Nomenclature (Code) is published in Current Dental Terminology (CDT). Copyright © American Dental Association. All rights reserved. CDT and CDT-2016 are trademarks of the American Dental Association.

UB-04 Manual. OFFICIAL UB-04 DATA SPECIFICATIONS MANUAL, 2014, is copyrighted by American Hospital Association ("AHA"), Chicago, Illinois. No portion of OFFICIAL UB-04 MANUAL may be reproduced, sorted in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior express, written consent of AHA." Health Forum reserves the right to change the copyright notice from time to time upon written notice to Company.

### Article Guidance

**Article Text:****NON-MEDICAL NECESSITY COVERAGE AND PAYMENT RULES**

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. Information provided in this policy article relates to determinations other than those based on Social Security Act §1862(a)(1)(A) provisions (i.e. "reasonable and necessary").

Surgical Dressings are covered under the Surgical Dressings Benefit (Social Security Act §1861(s)(5)). The CMS Benefit Policy Manual (IOM 100-02), CH 15, §100 provides interpretive guidance to contractors for the implementation of this provision. The relevant part of the manual section establishes two separate benefit criteria:

- The necessity for and definition of a qualifying wound; and,
- The requirements necessary for any product to be classified as a surgical dressing for purposes of coverage under this benefit.

In order for a beneficiary's item(s) to be eligible for reimbursement, all benefit requirements discussed below and the reasonable and necessary (R&N) requirements set out in the related Local Coverage Determination must be met.

#### QUALIFYING WOUND

Surgical dressings are covered when a qualifying wound is present. A qualifying wound is defined as either of the following:

- A wound caused by, or treated by, a surgical procedure; or,
- A wound that requires debridement, regardless of the debridement technique.

The surgical procedure or debridement must be performed by a physician or other healthcare professional to the extent permissible under State law. Debridement of a wound may be any type of debridement (examples given are not all-inclusive):

- Surgical (e.g., sharp instrument or laser)
- Mechanical (e.g., irrigation or wet-to-dry dressings)
- Chemical (e.g., topical application of enzymes) or
- Autolytic (e.g., application of occlusive dressings to an open wound).

Dressings used for mechanical debridement, to cover chemical debriding agents, or to cover wounds to allow for autolytic debridement are covered although the debridement agents themselves are noncovered.

Examples (not all-inclusive) of clinical situations in which dressings are noncovered under the Surgical Dressings benefit are:

- Drainage from a cutaneous fistula which has not been caused by or treated by a surgical procedure; or,
- A Stage I pressure ulcer; or
- A first degree burn; or
- Wounds caused by trauma which do not require surgical closure or debridement - e.g., skin tear or abrasion; or,
- A venipuncture or arterial puncture site (e.g., blood sample) other than the site of an indwelling catheter or needle.

Claims for surgical dressings used for clinical conditions other than the qualifying wounds as described above will be denied as statutorily non-covered, no benefit.

#### QUALIFYING DRESSING REQUIREMENTS

Products that are eligible to be classified as a surgical dressings include both:

- Primary dressings – Defined as therapeutic or protective coverings applied directly to wounds or lesions either on the skin or caused by an opening to the skin; and,
- Secondary dressings – Defined as materials that serve a therapeutic or protective function and that are needed to secure a primary dressing.

The following are examples of wound care items which are non-covered under the surgical dressing benefit because they do not meet the statutory definition of a dressing (not all-inclusive):

- Skin sealants or barriers (A6250)
- Wound cleansers (A6260) or irrigating solutions
- Solutions used to moisten gauze (e.g., saline)
- Silicone gel sheets (A6025)
- Topical antiseptics
- Topical antibiotics
- Enzymatic debriding agents
- Gauze or other dressings used to cleanse or debride a wound but not left on the wound
- First-aid type adhesive bandage (A6413)
- Any item listed in the latest edition of the Orange Book (e.g., an antibiotic-impregnated dressing which requires a prescription)
- Gradient compression stockings (A6530, A6533-A6544, A6549)
- Surgical stockings (A4490-A4510)
- Non-elastic binder for an extremity (A4465)
- Small adhesive bandages (e.g., Band-Aid or similar product) are not primarily used for the treatment of wounds addressed in the Surgical Dressings policy.

These dressings are noncovered under the surgical dressing benefit.

Claims for products that are not able to be used as a primary or secondary dressing on a qualifying wound of the skin or that are composed of materials that do not serve a therapeutic or protective function will be denied as statutorily non-covered, no benefit.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

If a physician applies surgical dressings as part of a professional service that is billed to Medicare, the surgical dressings are considered incident to the professional services of the health care practitioner and are not separately payable. Claims for these dressings must not be submitted. Claims for the professional service, which includes the dressings, must be submitted to the local carrier or intermediary. If dressing changes are sent home with the beneficiary, claims for these dressings may be submitted. In this situation, use the place of service corresponding to the beneficiary's residence; Place of Service Office (POS=11) must not be used.

Claims for tape (A4450 and A4452) which are billed without an AW modifier (see Coding Guidelines section) or another modifier indicating coverage under a different policy will be rejected as missing information.

When dressings are covered under other Medicare benefits, there is no separate payment using surgical dressing codes. Payment for any type of dressing in these other benefits is included (bundled) in the allowance for applicable supply codes. Examples, not all-inclusive, are:

- Dressings used with infusion pumps (which are covered under the DME benefit) are included in the allowance for code A4221.
- Dressings used with parenteral nutrition (covered under the prosthetic device benefit) are included in the allowance for code B4224.
- Dressings used with gastrostomy tubes for enteral nutrition (covered under the prosthetic device benefit) are included in the allowance for codes B4034-B4036.
- Dressings used with tracheostomies (covered under the prosthetic device benefit) are included in the allowance for code A4625 and A4629.
- Dressings used with dialysis access catheters (covered under the end stage renal disease benefit) are included in the composite rate (outpatient facility dialysis) or payment cap (method 1 home dialysis) paid to the dialysis provider.

Note that the allowance for items referred to using the term "kit" (e.g. in HCPCS codes A4625, A4629, B4224, B4034, B4035, B4036) includes not only the individual major supply items, but also any gauze, tape, other dressing supplies, etc. necessary for their use. Refer to the applicable LCD and related Policy Article for additional coverage, coding and documentation requirements for these items.

Claims separately billed for dressings that are included in a bundled supply or kit code will be denied as unbundling. (Refer to the CODING GUIDELINES section for additional information)

LIGHT COMPRESSION BANDAGE (A6448-A6450), MODERATE/HIGH COMPRESSION BANDAGE (A6451, A6452), SELF-ADHERENT BANDAGE (A6453-A6455), CONFORMING BANDAGE (A6442-A6447), PADDING BANDAGE (A6441)

Light compression bandages, self-adherent bandages, and conforming bandages are covered when they are used to hold wound cover dressings in place over any wound type i.e., as a secondary dressing over a qualified wound.

Moderate or high compression bandages, conforming bandages, self-adherent bandages, and padding bandages are covered when they are part of a multi-layer compression bandage system used in the treatment of a venous stasis ulcer that meets the requirements to be a qualified wound.

All of these bandages are non-covered when used for non-qualifying conditions such as, strains, sprains, edema, or situations other than as a dressing for a qualified wound. Claims for items used in these scenarios will be denied as statutorily non-covered, no benefit.

GRADIENT COMPRESSION STOCKINGS/WRAPPS (A6531, A6532, A6545)

A gradient compression stocking described by codes A6531 or A6532 or a non-elastic gradient compression wrap described by code A6545 is only covered when it is used in the treatment of an open venous stasis ulcer that meets the qualifying wound requirements described above.

Codes A6531, A6532, and A6545 are non-covered for the following conditions:

- Venous insufficiency without stasis ulcers;
- Prevention of stasis ulcers;
- Prevention of the reoccurrence of stasis ulcers that have healed;
- Treatment of lymphedema in the absence of ulcers.

In these situations, since there is no ulcer, the stockings/wraps do not meet the definition of a surgical dressing, as there is no qualifying wound. Claims for these uses will be denied as non-covered, no benefit.

COMPRESSION BURN GARMENTS (A6501-A6513)

Compression burn garments are covered under the Surgical Dressings benefit when they are used to reduce hypertrophic scarring and joint contractures following a burn injury.

## **POLICY SPECIFIC DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to policy specific documentation requirements, there are general documentation requirements that are applicable to all DMEPOS policies. These general requirements are located in the DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS section of the LCD.

Refer to the LCD-related Standard Documentation Requirements article, located at the bottom of this Policy Article under the Related Local Coverage Documents section for additional information regarding GENERAL DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS and the POLICY SPECIFIC DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS discussed below.

The order must specify:

- The type of dressing (e.g., hydrocolloid wound cover, hydrogel wound filler, etc.), and
- The size of the dressing (if applicable), and
- The number/amount to be used at one time (if more than one), and
- The frequency of dressing change, and
- The expected duration of need.

A new order is needed if a new dressing is added or if the quantity of an existing dressing to be used is increased. A new order is required every 3 months for each dressing being used.

Information defining the number of surgical/debrided wounds being treated with a dressing, the reason for dressing use (e.g., surgical wound, debrided wound, etc.), and whether the dressing is being used as a primary or secondary dressing or for some noncovered use (e.g., wound cleansing) must be obtained from the physician, nursing home, or home care nursing records. The source of that information and date obtained must be documented in the supplier's records.

Clinical information, which demonstrates that the reasonable and necessary requirements in the policy regarding the type and quantity of surgical dressings provided, must be present in the beneficiary's medical records. This information must be updated by the treating physician (or their designee) on a monthly basis. This evaluation of the beneficiary's wound(s) is required unless there is documentation in the medical record which justifies why an evaluation could not be done within this timeframe and what other monitoring methods were used to evaluate the beneficiary's need for ongoing use of dressings. Evaluation is expected on a weekly basis for beneficiaries in a nursing facility or for beneficiaries with heavily draining or infected wounds. The evaluation may be performed by a nurse, physician or other health care professional involved in the regular care of the beneficiary. This evaluation must include:

- The type of each wound (e.g., surgical wound, pressure ulcer, burn, etc.),
- Wound(s) location,
- Wound size (length x width) and depth,
- Amount of drainage, and
- Any other relevant wound status information.

This information must be available upon request.

When surgical dressings are billed, the appropriate modifier (A1 – A9, AW, EY, or GY) must be added to the code when applicable. If A9 is used, information must be submitted with the claim indicating the number of wounds. If GY is used, a brief description of the reason for non-coverage (e.g., "A6216GY - used for wound cleansing") must be entered in the narrative field of the electronic claim.

When codes A4649, A6261 or A6262 are billed, the claim must include:

- Description of the item or service
- Manufacturer name
- Product name and number
- Supplier Price List (PL) amount

This information must be entered in the narrative field of the electronic claim. Miscellaneous HCPCS codes billed without this information will be return/rejected for missing information.

Claims lines for A4649, A6010-A6024, A6154, A6196-A6215, A6217-A6224, A6228-A6248, A6251-A6259, A6261-A6262, A6266, A6402-A6404, A6441-A6457 billed without A1-A9 modifiers will be rejected as missing information.

Claims lines for A4450 and A4452 billed without AW and A1-A9 modifiers will be rejected as missing information.

Claim lines for A6531, A6532 and A6545 without an AW modifier (A1-A9 modifiers are not required for these codes) will be rejected for missing information.

## CODING GUIDELINES

Products containing multiple materials (excluding basic construction elements such as backing material, adhesive used in borders, binders, preservatives, etc.(not all-inclusive)) are classified as either composite dressings or as multi-component dressings. Impregnated gauze dressing are not included in this classification.

Composite dressings (A6203-A6205) are products combining physically distinct components into a single dressing that provides multiple functions. These functions must include all of the following:

- A physical (not chemical) bacterial barrier that is present over the entire dressing pad and extends out into the adhesive border,
- An absorptive layer other than an alginate or other fiber gelling dressing, foam, hydrocolloid, or hydrogel, and
- Either a semi-adherent or a non-adherent property over the wound site.

Surgical dressings with a backing that provides a physical bacterial barrier but does not have an adhesive border do not meet the definition of a composite dressing because there is no assurance that it will prevent bacterial

access to a wound. These types of dressings are to be coded as specialty absorptive dressings (A6251-A6253).

Multi-component dressings that are not classified as composite dressings are categorized according to the clinically predominant component. The clinically predominant component is defined based on the proportion of material(s) in the dressing. For example, a dressing that is 60 percent hydrocolloid and 40 percent alginates would be categorized as a hydrocolloid dressing. HCPCS Coding is determined based on the following:

- Products where a single material comprises greater than 50% (by weight) of a product's composition are coded based upon the applicable specific HCPCS code for that material. If a specific HCPCS code does not exist for the predominant component, HCPCS code A4649 is used.
- Products where no single material comprises greater than 50% (by weight) of the composition are coded as A4649.

Composite and multi-component products may not be unbundled and billed as the separate components of the dressing.

Contact layers (A6206-A6208) are thin non-adherent sheets placed directly on an open wound bed to protect the wound tissue from direct contact with other agents or dressings applied to the wound. They are not absorptive. They are porous to allow wound fluid to pass through for absorption by a separate overlying dressing. They remain on the wound for an extended time while the absorptive dressings are changed.

A foam dressing (A6209-A6215) is a sterile, non-linting, absorptive dressing which is made of open cell, medical grade expanded polymer. It has a non-adherent property over the wound site.

Impregnated gauze dressings (A6222-A6233, A6266, A6456) are woven or non-woven materials into which substances such as iodinated agents, petrolatum, zinc paste, crystalline sodium chloride, chlorhexadine gluconate (CHG), bismuth tribromophenate (BTP), water, aqueous saline, hydrogel, or other agents have been incorporated into the dressing material by the manufacturer. These codes are not to be used for gauze dressings containing substances that are not recognized as effective dressing materials such as silver, honey, copper, cadexomer iodine, charcoal or other similar materials (not all-inclusive).

Specialty absorptive dressings (A6251-A6256) are unitized multi-layer dressings that provide (a) either a semi-adherent quality or non-adherent layer, and (b) highly absorptive layers of fibers such as absorbent cellulose, cotton, or rayon. These may or may not have an adhesive border.

A wound pouch (A6154) is a waterproof collection device with a drainable port that adheres to the skin around a wound.

Effective for claims with dates of service on or after June 1, 2013, the only products which may be billed to Medicare using code A6021, A6022, A6023 and A6024 are those for which a written coding verification has been made by the PDAC contractor and are listed on the Product Classification List in the Durable Medical Equipment Coding System (DMECS) maintained on the PDAC web site.

Code A6025 should only be used for gel sheets used for the treatment of keloids or other scars. Hydrogel sheets used in the treatment of wounds are billed with codes A6242-A6247.

When dressings are covered under other benefits, they may not be billed separately using surgical dressing codes. See Non-Medical Necessity Coverage and Payments Rules section for additional information.

Wound fillers are dressing materials placed into open wounds to eliminate dead space, absorb exudate, or maintain a moist wound surface.

Wound fillers come in hydrated forms (e.g., pastes, gels), dry forms (e.g., powder, granules, beads), or other forms such as rope, spiral, pillows, etc. For certain materials, unique codes have been established - i.e., collagen wound filler (A6010, A6011, A6024), alginate or other fiber gelling wound filler (A6199), foam wound filler (A6215), hydrocolloid wound filler (A6240, A6241), hydrogel wound filler (A6248), and non-impregnated packing strips (A6407). Wound fillers made of recognized dressing materials, not falling into any of these categories are coded as A6261 or A6262. Wound fillers comprised of substances that are not recognized as effective dressing materials are coded as A9270.

The units of service for wound fillers are 1 gram, 1 fluid ounce, 6-inch length, or one yard depending on the product. If the individual product is packaged as a fraction of a unit (e.g., 1/2 fluid ounce), determine the units billed by multiplying the number dispensed times the individual product size and rounding to the nearest whole number. For example, if eleven (11) 1/2 oz. tubes of a wound filler are dispensed, bill 6 units (11 x 1/2 = 5.5; round to 6).



For some wound fillers, the units on the package do not correspond to the units of the code. For example, some pastes or gels are labeled as grams (instead of fluid ounces), some wound fillers are labeled as cc. or ml. (instead of fluid ounces or grams), and some are described by linear dimensions (instead of grams). In these situations, the supplier must contact the manufacturer to determine the appropriate conversion factor or unit of service, which corresponds to that used by the code narrative.

Wound covers are flat dressing pads. A wound cover with adhesive border has an integrated cover and distinct adhesive border designed to adhere tightly to the skin. In order to be billed using a "with adhesive border" code, the adhesive border must be present along all sides of the dressing and must be proportionate to the size of the dressing pad and at least 1/2 inch wide.

Some wound covers are available both without and with an adhesive border. For wound covers with an adhesive border, the code to be used is determined by the pad size, not by the outside adhesive border dimensions. For example, a hydrocolloid dressing with outside dimensions of 6 in. x 6 in. has a 4 in. x 4 in. pad surrounded by a 1 in. border on each side and is correctly coded as A6237, "... pad size 16 sq. inch or less..."

A first-aid type adhesive bandage (e.g., Band-Aid or similar product) is a wound cover with a pad size of less than 4 square inches. It must be billed with code A6413.

For products with features that go beyond the usual scope of surgical dressings (e.g., a large wound cover with a slit in the middle and a plastic pouch which covers the dressing and is intended to protect an indwelling venous catheter), the coding determination will be based on the dominant component that falls under the Surgical Dressings benefit category and that is appropriate for the management of the wound itself.

Gauze or gauze-like products are typically manufactured as a single piece of material folded into a several ply gauze pad. Coding must be based on the functional size of the pad as it is commonly used in clinical practice.

For all dressings, if a single dressing is divided into multiple portion/pieces, the code and quantity billed must represent the originally manufactured size and quantity.

Impregnated dressings that are listed in the FDA Orange Book must be billed using code A9270 and must not be billed using codes A6222-A6224, A6231-A6233, or A6266.

Elastic bandages are those that contain fibers of rubber (latex, neoprene), spandex, or elastane. Roll bandages that do not contain these fibers are considered non-elastic bandages even though many of them (e.g., gauze bandages) are stretchable. Codes A6442-A6447 describe roll gauze-type bandages made either of cotton or of synthetic materials such as nylon, viscose, polyester, rayon, or polyamide. These bandages are stretchable, but do not contain elastic fibers. These codes include short-stretch bandages.

Codes A6448-A6450 describe ACE®-type elastic bandages. Codes A6451 and A6452 describe elastic bandages that produce moderate or high compression that is sustained typically for one week. They are commonly included in multi-layer compression bandage systems. Suppliers billing these new codes must be able to provide, upon request, documentation from the manufacturer verifying that the performance characteristics specified in the code narratives have been met.

When multi-layer compression bandage systems are used for the treatment of a venous stasis ulcer, each component is billed using a specific code for the component - e.g., moderate or high compression bandages (A6451, A6452), conforming bandages (A6443, A6444), self-adherent bandages (A6454), padding bandages (A6441), zinc paste impregnated bandage (A6456).

For the compression stocking codes A6531 and A6532, one unit of service is generally for one stocking. However, if a manufacturer has a product consisting of two components that are designed to be worn simultaneously on the same leg, the two components must be billed as one claim line with one unit of service - e.g., a product that consists of an unzipped liner and a zippered stocking.

The only products that may be billed with code A6545 (non-elastic compression wrap) are those which have received a written Coding Verification Review from the Pricing, Data Analysis, and Coding (PDAC) contractor and that are posted in the Product Classification List on the PDAC web site.

Modifiers A1 - A9 have been established to indicate that a particular item is being used as a primary or secondary dressing on a surgical or debrided wound and to indicate the number of wounds on which that dressing is being used. The modifier number must correspond to the number of wounds on which the dressing is being used, not the total number of wounds treated. For example, if the beneficiary has four (4) wounds but a particular dressing is only used on two (2) of them, the A2 modifier must be used with that HCPCS code. Modifiers A1-A9 are not used with codes A6531 and A6532.

If the dressing is not being used as a primary or secondary dressing on a surgical or debrided wound, do not use modifiers A1-A9. When dressings are provided in noncovered situations (e.g., use of gauze in the cleansing of a wound or intact skin), a GY modifier must be added to the code and a brief description of the reason for non-coverage included - e.g., "A6216GY - used for wound cleansing."

When tape codes A4450 and A4452 are used with surgical dressings, they must be billed with the AW modifier (in addition to the appropriate A1-A9 modifier). When gradient compression stocking codes A6531 and A6532 or the gradient compression wrap code A6545 are used for an open venous stasis ulcer, the code must be billed with the AW modifier (but not an A1-A9 modifier). For this policy, codes A4450, A4452, A6531, A6532, and A6545 are the only codes for which the AW modifier may be used.

The RT and/or LT modifiers must be used with codes A6531, A6532, and A6545 for gradient compression stockings and wraps. When the same code for bilateral items (left and right) is billed on the same date of service, bill both items on the same claim line using RTLTLT modifiers and 2 units of service. Claims billed without modifiers RT and/or LT will be rejected as incorrect coding.

When dressing codes are billed for items covered under another benefit (e.g., gauze for a continent ostomy which is covered under the prosthetic device benefit) claims must be billed according to the documentation requirements specified in the applicable policy (see Ostomy Supplies policy for details).

Suppliers should contact the Pricing, Data Analysis, and Coding (PDAC) contractor for guidance on the correct coding of these items.

[Back to Top](#)

---

## [Coding Information](#)

### **Bill Type Codes:**

Contractors may specify Bill Types to help providers identify those Bill Types typically used to report this service. Absence of a Bill Type does not guarantee that the article does not apply to that Bill Type. Complete absence of all Bill Types indicates that coverage is not influenced by Bill Type and the article should be assumed to apply equally to all claims.

N/A

### **Revenue Codes:**

Contractors may specify Revenue Codes to help providers identify those Revenue Codes typically used to report this service. In most instances Revenue Codes are purely advisory. Unless specified in the article, services reported under other Revenue Codes are equally subject to this coverage determination. Complete absence of all Revenue Codes indicates that coverage is not influenced by Revenue Code and the article should be assumed to apply equally to all Revenue Codes.

N/A

**CPT/HCPCS Codes** N/A

**ICD-10 Codes that are Covered** N/A

**ICD-10 Codes that are Not Covered** N/A

[Back to Top](#)

---

## [Revision History Information](#)

Revision History Date	Revision History Number	Revision History Explanation
07/24/2017	R2	<p><b>Revision Effective Date: 07/24/2017</b>  POLICY SPECIFIC DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:  Added: Order and Modifier requirements  RELATED LOCAL COVERAGE DOCUMENTS:  Added: LCD-related Standard Documentation Requirements Language Article  Effective July 1, 2016 oversight for DME MAC Articles is the responsibility of CGS Administrators, LLC 18003 and 17013 and Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC 19003 and 16013. No other changes have been made to the Articles.</p>
07/01/2016	R1	<p><a href="#">Back to Top</a> <b>Related Local Coverage Document(s)</b> Article(s) <a href="#">A55426 - Standard Documentation Requirements for All Claims Submitted to DMF MACs</a>  LCD(s) <a href="#">L33831 - Surgical Dressings</a></p>
<b>Related National Coverage Document(s)</b> N/A		
<b>Statutory Requirements URL(s)</b> N/A		
<b>Rules and Regulations URL(s)</b> N/A		
<b>CMS Manual Explanations URL(s)</b> N/A		
<b>Other URL(s)</b> N/A		
<p><b>Public Version(s)</b> Updated on 06/02/2017 with effective dates 07/24/2017 - N/A <a href="#">Updated on 06/08/2016 with effective dates 07/01/2016 - N/A</a> <a href="#">Updated on 08/01/2015 with effective dates 10/01/2015 - N/A</a> <a href="#">Back to Top</a></p>		

## Keywords

N/A Read the [Article Disclaimer](#) [Back to Top](#)