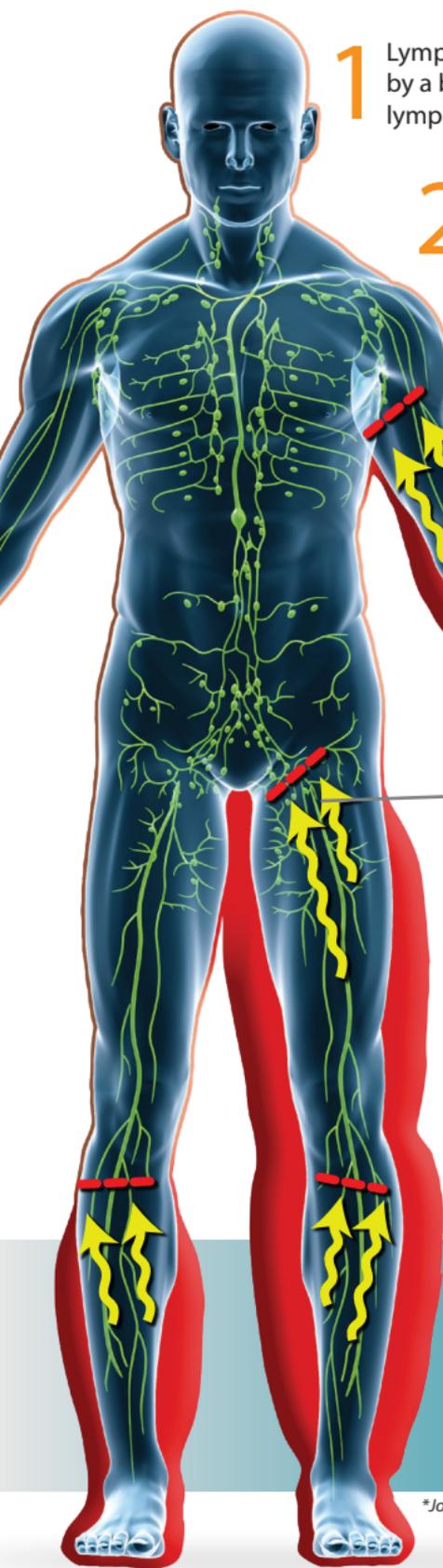


# 6 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT LYMPHEDEMA



**1** Lymphedema is chronic swelling caused by a build-up of fluid that occurs when the lymphatic system is faulty or damaged.

**2** An estimated 3-5 million Americans suffer from lymphedema. That is more than ALS, Cystic Fibrosis, Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, and Parkinson's Disease combined.



2 out of 5 breast cancer patients will develop lymphedema within 5 years of surgery.\*

Swollen tissue due to buildup of lymphatic fluid

Damaged vessels blocking lymphatic flow

**3** Many patients go **undiagnosed** or are **misdiagnosed** due to lack of awareness.

**4** There is no known cure for lymphedema, but it can be effectively treated.

**Compression therapy** is the most critical part of treatment. Without it, patients are at increased risk for complications and disability.

**5** The causes of lymphedema include lymph node removal for cancer treatment, injury to lymphatic vessels due to trauma or infection, venous insufficiency, and congenital malformation of the lymphatics.

\*Journal of Clinical Oncology ~ J Clin Oncol. 2009 Jan 20;27(3):390-7.

**6** The **Lymphedema Treatment Act** improved insurance coverage for compression garments and supplies, but continued advocacy is needed to ensure that all patients have access to treatment for this chronic disease.

# WHAT IS THE LYMPHEDEMA TREATMENT ACT AND WHO DOES IT AFFECT?

The **Lymphedema Treatment Act** is a bill that was passed by Congress in December of 2022 to enable Medicare coverage for lymphedema compression garments and supplies. The new coverage went into effect on January 1, 2024. The information below is specific to Original Medicare, however, most other insurance plans eventually follow Medicare precedent.

## What is required for coverage?

- A lymphedema diagnosis
  - I89.0 (*Lymphedema not elsewhere classified*)
  - I97.2 (*Postmastectomy lymphedema syndrome*)
  - I97.89 (*Other postprocedural circulatory system complications*)
  - Q82.0 (*Hereditary lymphedema*)
- A prescription for the item(s)
- Detailed clinical notes

## What compression supplies are covered?

- Custom and standard fit daytime garments, nighttime garments, and gradient compression wraps with adjustable straps
- Bandaging supplies
- Medically necessary accessories

## What quantities are covered?

- Daytime: 3 sets\* of garments every six months
- Nighttime: 2 sets\* of garments every two years
- Bandaging supplies and accessories: no limit

\*A set is defined as one garment for each affected body part

Are you Being Denied Coverage or Receiving Insufficient Coverage?



LYMPHEDEMA  
Education & Awareness  
PROJECT