

Letter of Medical Necessity

Lymphedema is a chronic inflammatory condition resulting from disrupted or inadequate lymph flow, most often following cancer surgery and/or radiation. Lymphedema can occur in any affected quadrant of the body, including a limb and its corresponding area of the trunk. Lymphedema of the arm, breast and chest wall often affect women following treatment for breast cancer.

Treatment, or Complete Decongestive Therapy (CDT), is a combination of skin care, exercise, and Manual Lymph Drainage followed by compression therapy. Bandaging and compression garments are often mandatory during and following CDT and stabilize the reduction of protein rich fluid volume in the affected area. Reduction in lymphedema is necessary to reduce the risk of infection in the affected area, and decrease pain.

Application of bandages and underlying padding to achieve the necessary gradient pressure can be difficult for most patients, particularly the elderly or those undergoing chemotherapy or radiation. Patients often require special foam padding under the compression to reduce fibrosis following surgery and radiation. These must be held securely in place.

All of these factors were motivations for the design of the Bellisse™ Compressure Comfort® Bra. Conventional bras may cut or bind sensitive post surgical areas and radiated tissue, exacerbating swelling or lymphedema.

The Bellisse™ Compressure Comfort® Bra provides comfortable compression to the chest wall following surgical intervention of the chest and breast or for chronic lymphedema of these same areas. Many physicians and lymphedema therapists report improved treatment outcomes and independent program compliance of this often-painful condition. In addition, this specially designed garment will securely hold in place any prescribed padding or bandaging.

The Bellisse™ Compressure Comfort® Bra is using certified compression fabrics such as Tactel® and Lycra® (from DuPont™). These technical and comfort inducing fabrics combine with its patent-pending design to provide an effective management tool for this hard-to-manage problem.

Many practitioners have found regular use of the Bellisse™ Compressure Comfort® Bra improves overall quality of life and may decrease the need for additional therapy visits.