

Comfort, Health and Style!

# • EFFECTIVE TREATMENT ·······• CUSTOM-FIT, FLAT-KNIT ······• COMPRESSION LEVELS† ·····• WHEN IS A BELOW KNEE GARMENT SUITABLE? ····

wound care Phase I Phase II Decongestion / Maintenance and Intensive Optimisation Therapy lymphatio garments or wrap compression system bandaging or wrap compression system

The main use of compression garments is in the long-term management (phase II) of lymphoedema / chronic oedema, usually following a period of intensive therapy (phase I)1. These are more aesthetically pleasing, allow normal clothing to be worn and have fewer layers than bandaging or wrap compression systems.

Manufactured as a flat piece of fabric using straight rows of needles. Flat-knit garments sit flat against the skin and do not cut into skin folds, making them especially suitable for lymphoedema / chronic oedema treatment. Stitches can be added and dropped to accommodate all levels of limb shape distortion.



**c** = circumference

**B** = each letter relates to

a measuring point

Flat-knit machine

**RAL Compression Class** mmHg CCL 1 18-21mmHg CCL 2 23-32mmHg CCL 3 34-46mmHg CCL 3 Forte 34-46mmHg CCL 4 49-70mmHg CCL 4 Super 60-90mmHg

Garment pressure is measured in millimeters of mecury and refers to the amount applied at the ankle circumference by the compression garment.



<sup>†</sup>Compression ranges as recommended by the International Lymphoedema Framework<sup>2</sup>

Before measuring for a compression garment, undertake a complete, holistic assessment of the patient including limb shape, size and level of oedema. The arterial vascular status of the legs of all patients with lower limb lymphoedema/ chronic oedema should be assessed. The presence of peripheral arterial occlusive disease may contraindicate compression therapy or necessitate a reduction in the level of compression used<sup>1</sup>.

Most patients with shape distortion are better treated with custom-fit, flat-knit hosiery, which does not curl, twist or tourniquet. Flat-knit hosiery is often stiffer and so is more likely to prevent rebound oedema<sup>2</sup>.

Below knee suitable for1:

- Swelling and skin changes limited to below the knee
- Venous ulceration without thigh swelling
- Inability to apply full length garment
- Obesity

Note: If toe caps are impractical and toe swelling is mild, closed toe hosiery may be preferable to open toe. Flat-knit is often preferred for treating swelling of the forefoot<sup>1</sup>



## • MEASURING POINTS FOR A BELOW KNEE (AD) GARMENT ··· • ORDER FORM ························· ORDER CODES

The limb should be largely free of oedema before measuring for a compression garment (pitting oedema test can be performed). Do not measure into skin folds but place the tape measure over the top of the skin fold. Measure accurately to the nearest half cm when the patient is lying. A measuring board is recommended whenever possible<sup>1</sup>.





Place the measuring board on a stable surface and ask the patient to place their leg on the measuring board. Ensure you have a tape measure, ballpoint pen and order form at hand.



Measure circumference B at the narrowest point of the ankle. Measure length a-B at the same point. If malleoli not palpable, 10cm from heel.



Foot length for a slant open toe: from the base of the large toe to the end of heel (inside) and from the base of the little toe to the end of the heel (outside). Foot length for closed toe: from the tips of the toes to the end of the heel.



Measure circumference B1 at the achilles tendon / calf transition. Measure length a-B1 at the same point.



measurement A at the base



Measure circumference C at the widest point of the calf. Measure length a-C at the same point (see below).



lake circumterential

dorsiflexion.

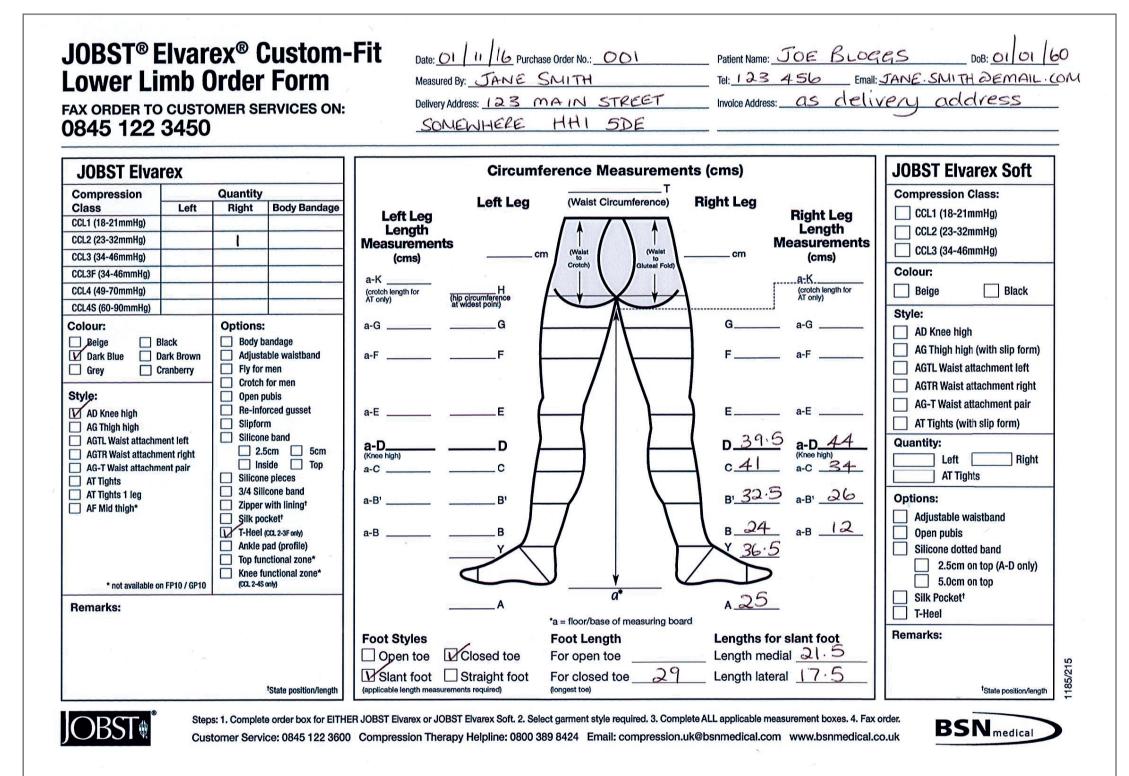
measurement Y around the

ankle flex and heel at maximal

Measure circumference D. Measure length a-D at the same point (at the fibular head - two finger widths below the kneecap).

All measurements to be taken with lay-on tape tension except the C measurement point. This is an anchor point for the garment. Apply lay-on tape tension and then pull slightly

A completed JOBST Elvarex order form for the knee high example prescription.



Note: Patient should be provided with a minimum of 2 compression garments - one to wash and one to wear. Garments should also be replaced every 6 months.

Reference 1: Lymphoedema Framework. Best Practice for the Management of Lymphoedema. International consensus. London: MEP Ltd, 2006. Reference 2: Lymphoedema Framework. Template for Practice: compression hosiery in lymphoedema. London: MEP Ltd, 2006

## JOBST ELVAREX CUSTOM-FIT

	Compression Class	Code	Pieces	Options	Code	Pieces
<b>Knee High</b>						
	Basic style - in beige			Options		
	CCL 1 - 18-21mmHg	L1-01-04	1	Closed toe	L-A001	1
	CCL 2 - 23-32mmHg	L2-02-04	1	2 Ankle pads (profile)	L-A002	1
	CCL 3 - 34-46mmHg	L3-03-04	1	Zipper	L-A003	1
	CCL 3 Forte – 34-46mmHg	L3-04-04	1	Silicone band	L-A004	1
	CCL 4 - 49-70mmHg	L4-05-04	1	Non-standard colour	L-A008	1
	CCL 4 Super – 60-90mmHg	L5-06-04	1	T-heel	L-A010	1
				SoftFit	L-A016	1

## JOBST ELVAREX SOFT



