

Title:

Delivering Best Practice in Compression Garment Supply

Abstract:

Lymphoedema garment prescription is a cornerstone in the management of lymphoedema. The Lymphoedema Compression Garment Program (LCGP) has been supporting Victorian clinicians and clients in the supply of garments since 1997. As the first state wide financial assistance program in Australia, a significant knowledge base has been developed. In particular feedback from consumers about compression has driven change in the selection of suppliers to the LCGP.

Reflecting on past practice has inspired further research to evaluate the current and future needs of consumers and clinicians. Developing and extending the knowledge base regarding compression has lead to a quest for wider choice of garments. Additionally, the opportunity to develop partnerships with the compression garment industry has strengthened supplier's commitment to support clinicians in delivering effective compression.

This paper will report the evaluation of benchmarked suppliers from client and clinician perspectives. An analysis of trends and challenges in the supply of compression garments will be presented outlining conclusions for improvements to achieve enhanced outcomes. Victorian therapists were surveyed and interviews were held with clients of suppliers, and 200 clients were surveyed on their experience and involvement with suppliers. The results will be measured against the benchmark standards of the past and indicate changes and adjustments to benchmark standards for the future.

This report is important in the development of knowledge regarding compression therapy in Australia and will contribute to practice guidelines for clinicians.