Eligibility criteria for the treatment of varicose veins (legs) - effective up to and including 10 January 2027

The eligibility criteria listed below are criteria applicable to the treatment of varicose veins (legs) by:

- varicose vein surgery
- ultrasound guided sclerotherapy (UGS)
- endovenous laser treatment (EVLT)
- VNUS closure
- VenaSeal.

Southern Cross will only reimburse the cost of the treatment of varicose veins under a member's policy when criteria **1, 2, 3** and **4** are met for that member.

1. At least **one** of the following is present:
- venous ulceration
- changes in the skin in the lower leg thought to be related to chronic superficial venous insufficiency, including any of the following:
    - a healed venous ulcer
    - induration, pigmentation, dermatosclerosis, or calcification, or
    - recurring bouts of inflammation (panniculitis) or eczema
- superficial thrombophlebitis in a large superficial varicose vein(s)
- an episode of bleeding from a burst superficial varicose vein, or
- pain or swelling thought to be related to chronic superficial venous insufficiency which is assessed by the specialist as at least moderately severe and is unresponsive to simple analgesics.

2. Ultrasound demonstrates 'significant' venous incompetence. 'Significant' venous incompetence is defined as:
- reflux occurring for longer than 0.5 seconds into at least one of the major junctions between the deep venous system and superficial venous system

and

- the diameter of that vein is greater than 3mm.

3. A duplex ultrasound scan confirms the initial ultrasound findings.

4. A map of the deep and superficial venous structure of the legs must be retained.

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Please also ensure you are familiar with all **policy exclusions**, including:

- Acute care
- Congenital conditions
- Cosmetic treatment/procedures
- Health screening
- Treatment of any condition not detrimental to health
- Unapproved healthcare services.

Refer to the relevant policy document for specific conditions and exceptions that apply to these exclusions.

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