Anti Embolism Stockings Vs. Medical Compression Stockings

The biggest difference between Anti-Embolism Stockings and Medical Compression Stockings is the compression level and the medical reason for which it is worn. Anti- Embolism Stockings are usually 8–18mmHg, while medical compression stockings are a medically-measured 15–20mmHg or higher. In addition, the purpose of anti-embolism stockings is to maintain normal venous return in a bedridden patient.

Medical Compression Hosiery or graduated compression stockings and socks are used to treat venous and lymphatic disorders in ambulatory patients.

Graduated compression stockings are used for all stages of Chronic Venous Insufficiency, including varicose veins, edema, stasis skin changes and venous procedures. They may also be used in preventing and treating Post-Thrombotic Syndrome. According to medical research, ambulatory patients with Chronic Venous Disorders require more compression than is available in anti-embolism stockings.

A Simple Rule of Thumb:

If the patient is laying in the bed = anti-embolism stockings
If the patient is ambulatory = medical graduated compression stockings