With growing costs of healthcare the use of a compression garment is common in the treatment of edema and venous insufficiency. Disposable 2 and 4 layer compression wraps are costly and require specialized training and skill to apply. Due to the nature of the disease, after wounds have healed, patients will need continued compression to prevent recurrence of ulcerations. The key to good maintenance is adequate graduated compression, which not only requires patient compliance, but also the availability of suitable garments for the affected limb. Compression hose are difficult to don, which can lead to patient non-compliance.

Research project
With nursing care and product costs continually increasing, we wanted to test the reusable Velcro compression wrap in place of the two or four layer compression system to ensure edema was managed and wounds continued to heal.

METHOD
• Reusable Velcro compression wraps were used in place of 2/4 layer wraps.
• Three different brands of Velcro wraps were trialed.
• Each patient had been treated with 2 or 4 layer compression wraps for at least 2 weeks prior to being admitted to the study.
• Patients included had an Ankle-Brachial Index test (ABI) performed with results >0.8.
• Before the trial began, the nursing staff were trained in the application of the Velcro closure compression wrap.
• The patient and/or family were trained on how to apply the Velcro garment. In addition, a full explanation of the application of the Velcro closure compression wrap.
• The patients and family members were pleased with the ease of use and aid in wound healing is common in the treatment of venous leg ulcers. The key to good maintenance is adequate graduated compression, which not only requires patient compliance, but also the availability of suitable garments for the affected limb. Compression hose are difficult to don, which can lead to patient non-compliance.

RESULTS
• The average cost savings for our agency was $100-$150 per week, this did not include the nursing visit or other wound care product.
• Two patients did not like the Velcro wraps. However, they didn’t like the 2/4 layer compression either.
• All of the patients continued to have their edema managed and the wound measurements decreased as they continued to heal.

NURSES COMMENTS
“Easy to apply, saved time during visit”  “The wounds are healing and edema is managed.”  “Doctor was very impressed with results.”

CONCLUSION
• With growing costs of healthcare the use of a reusable compression garment will reduce the cost of treatment while maintaining good quality outcomes.
• The added benefit to the patient is the use of the Velcro compression system as a maintenance garment once the wounds have healed decreasing the risk for recurring ulcerations.
• The Velcro compression system is now being rolled out across our home care agencies as an option in place of the 2/4 layer compression wraps.

REFERENCES