



MEDICAL POLICY STATEMENT OHIO MEDICAID

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04/14/2004	11/01/2018	11/01/2017	
Policy Name		Policy Number	
Nutritional Supplements		MM-0024	
Policy Type			
MEDICAL	Administrative	Pharmacy	Reimbursement

Medical Policy Statements prepared by CSMG Co. and its affiliates (including CareSource) are derived from literature based on and supported by clinical guidelines, nationally recognized utilization and technology assessment guidelines, other medical management industry standards, and published MCO clinical policy guidelines. Medically necessary services include, but are not limited to, those health care services or supplies that are proper and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of disease, illness, or injury and without which the patient can be expected to suffer prolonged, increased or new morbidity, impairment of function, dysfunction of a body organ or part, or significant pain and discomfort. These services meet the standards of good medical practice in the local area, are the lowest cost alternative, and are not provided mainly for the convenience of the member or provider. Medically necessary services also include those services defined in any Evidence of Coverage documents, Medical Policy Statements, Provider Manuals, Member Handbooks, and/or other policies and procedures.

Medical Policy Statements prepared by CSMG Co. and its affiliates (including CareSource) do not ensure an authorization or payment of services. Please refer to the plan contract (often referred to as the Evidence of Coverage) for the service(s) referenced in the Medical Policy Statement. If there is a conflict between the Medical Policy Statement and the plan contract (i.e., Evidence of Coverage), then the plan contract (i.e., Evidence of Coverage) will be the controlling document used to make the determination.

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A. SUBJECT

Nutritional Supplement

B. BACKGROUND

Nutritional and medical food products include nutritional formulas or nutritional supplements and may be indicated for patients with physiologic or pathologic inability to swallow or those who are being treated for a medical condition in which they are unable to receive appropriate nutrition provided by conventional or altered conventional diets.

C. DEFINITIONS

- **Enteral Nutrition** – Nutrition delivered through an enteral access device into the gastrointestinal tract for caloric sustenance in the presence of a disability or life-threatening disease with significant nutritional problems that cannot be managed by ordinary or blenderized foods.
- **Enteral Access Device** – A tube or catheter placed directly into the gastrointestinal tract for the delivery of nutrients.
- **Low Protein Modified Food** – A product formulated to have less than one (1) gram of protein per serving and intended for the dietary treatment of inborn errors of metabolism or genetic conditions under the direction of a physician.
- **Medical Food** – A food that is formulated to be consumed or administered under the supervision of a physician and is intended for the specific dietary management of a disease or condition for which distinctive requirements, based on recognized scientific principles, are established by medical evaluation.
- **Parenteral Nutrition** – Nutrition delivered in intravenous administration.
- **Therapeutic Foods, Formulas, Supplements** – Products intended for the dietary treatment of errors of metabolism or genetic conditions under the direction of a physician.

D. POLICY

- I. CareSource allows for coverage of oral and enteral nutrition when the following criteria have been met:
 - A. The product must be a medical food for oral or tube feeding
 - B. The product is the primary source of nutrition, i.e., more than half the intake for the individual
 - C. The product must be labeled and used for the dietary management of a specific medical disorder, disease, or condition for which there are distinctive nutritional requirements to avert the development of serious physical or mental disabilities or to promote normal development or function as listed in A. **OR** B. below:
 1. Conditions associated with an in-born error of metabolism that interfere with the metabolism of specific nutrients, including, but not limited to:
 - 1.1 Phenylketonuria (PKU)
 - 1.2 Homocystinuria
 - 1.3 Methylmalonic acidemia
 2. Conditions that interfere with nutrient absorption and assimilation, including, but not limited to:
 - 2.1 Allergy or hypersensitivity to cow or soy milk diagnosed through a formal food challenge
 - 2.2 Anaphylaxis to food
 - 2.3 Allergic or eosinophilic enteritis (colitis/proctitis, esophagitis, gastroenteritis)
 - 2.4 Cystic fibrosis with malabsorption
 - 2.5 Diarrhea or vomiting resulting in clinically significant dehydration requiring treatment by a medical provider



- 2.6 Malabsorption that is unresponsive to standard age appropriate interventions when associated with failure to gain weight or meet established growth expectations
 - 2.7 Failure to thrive that is unresponsive to standard age appropriate interventions (e.g. Whole milk, Carnation Instant Breakfast™) when associated with weight loss, failure to gain weight or to meet established growth expectations, including but not limited to:
 - a. Premature infants who have not achieved the 25th percentile for weight based on their corrected age
 - b. Individuals with end-stage renal disease and an albumin level of less than 4mg/dl
 - 2.8 The product must be ordered and supervised by a health care provider authorized to prescribe dietary treatments
 3. Oral or enteral nutrition may be considered medically necessary when the diet consists of 50% or more of enteral nutrition for age when:
 - 3.1 The enteral product is used as part of a defined and limited plan of care in transition from a diet of more than 50% enteral products to standard diet for age
 - 3.2 Medical records document a medical basis for the inability to maintain appropriate body weight and nutritional status prior to initiating or after discontinuing use of an enteral supplement as well as ongoing evidence of response to the enteral nutrition
 4. Enteral Nutrition through an enteral access device may be considered medically necessary when the enteral nutrition comprises the majority of the diet, and the product is ordered by a health care provider authorized to prescribe dietary treatments, and nutrients cannot be taken orally due to a medical condition that either:
 - 4.1 Interferes with swallowing (e.g. dysphagia from a neurological condition, severe chronic anorexia nervosa, inability to maintain weight and nutritional status with oral nutrition)
 - 4.2 Is associated with obstruction of the proximal gastrointestinal tract (e.g. tumor of the esophagus)
- II. Enteral nutrition is defined as oral or tube-delivered caloric sustenance products for those Medicaid consumers demonstrating a disability or life-threatening disease with significant nutritional problems that cannot be managed by ordinary or blenderized foods.
- A. The following three medical nutrition therapy services are covered for Medicaid consumers:
 1. Initial assessment and intervention
 2. Reassessment and intervention
 3. Group counseling
 - B. Enteral nutrition will be covered when:
 1. The consumer has the ability to swallow, but is unable to meet the caloric and nutritional requirements from ordinary foods, including pureed or blenderized foods, to maintain life-sustaining functions, as determined and documented by a licensed prescriber.
 2. The consumer is unable to swallow due to a damaged or diseased (non-functioning) oral pathway and must be tube-fed, as determined and documented by a licensed prescriber.
 3. A consumer has infants and children of age five years or younger who require enteral nutrition products, a breast-feeding consumer has an infant one year of age or younger, or a post-partum mother has a child six months of age or younger, any of which must apply to their county Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program for an eligibility evaluation before coverage will be considered.



C. Limitations:

1. Enteral nutrition products that are designed to provide meal replacements, or snack alternatives to be eaten within the context of a consumer's individualized meal plan.
2. Enteral nutrition products that are designed as meal replacements, or to be eaten within the context of a consumer's prescribed reduced calorie diet for consumers with diabetes, obesity issues, pre- or post-gastric bypass, or bariatric surgery, are not covered.
3. Enteral nutrition products that are administered in an outpatient provider setting (i.e., a dialysis outpatient clinic or a facility receiving per diem payments from the department) are not separately reimbursable.
4. Adult and pediatric electrolyte replacement is covered under the pharmacy benefit program as described in Chapter 5101:3-9 of the Administrative Code.
5. Benefits are not available for uses other than nutritional purposes.

CareSource provides enteral nutrition through participating Durable Medical Equipment (DME) providers allowing for home delivery of medically necessary enteral nutrition.

CareSource allows for a 30 day supply of enteral nutrition to be provided by a retail pharmacy to allow time for a DME to be arranged or while arranging for home delivery of the enteral nutrition product. A 30 day extension for retail pharmacy may be granted if needed.

E. CONDITIONS OF COVERAGE

**HCPCS
 CPT**

AUTHORIZATION PERIOD

F. RELATED POLICIES/RULES

G. REVIEW/REVISION HISTORY

DATES		ACTION
Date issued	04/14/2004	New Policy.
Date Revised	09/2005 04/2008 07/2009 03/2012 07/2013 07/2014 01/2015 06/28/2016	
	06/28/2017	Edited some language for clarification, updated references
Date Effective	11/01/2017	



H. REFERENCES

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The Medical Policy Statement detailed above has received due consideration as defined in the Medical Policy Statement Policy and is approved.