

## Payment Policy | Nutritional Counseling/Medical Nutritional Therapy



**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 02 | 19 | 2008

**POLICY LAST UPDATED:** 7 | 07 | 2021

### OVERVIEW

This is a payment policy that documents the claims filing for nutritional counseling/medical nutritional therapy. Please see related policy section for diabetes education or services that would be covered as a preventive service.

### PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Prior authorization review is not required

### POLICY STATEMENT

#### Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products

Nutritional counseling/medical nutritional therapy is a covered service when ordered by a physician and provided by a registered dietician/nutritionist

### MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable

### BACKGROUND

Nutritional counseling/Medical Nutritional Therapy (MNT) is an important part of the prevention and treatment of many diseases and conditions. It consists of a nutritional assessment, the assignment of a specific diet, counseling services, and/or specialized nutrition therapies\* to treat an illness or condition.

\*Specialized nutrition therapies including supplementation with medical foods for those unable to obtain adequate nutrients through food intake only; this includes enteral nutrition delivered via tube feeding into the gastrointestinal tract for those unable to ingest or digest food, and/or parenteral nutrition delivered via intravenous infusion for those unable to absorb nutrients.

### COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for the applicable "Office visits/nutritional counseling" benefits.

### CODING

#### Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products

The following codes are covered only when services are provided by a Registered Dietician/Nutritionist

**97802** Medical nutrition therapy; initial assessment and intervention, individual, face-to-face with the patient, each 15 minutes

**97803** Medical nutrition therapy, re-assessment and intervention, individual, face-to-face with the patient, each 15 minutes

**97804** Medical nutrition therapy; group (two or more individuals), each 30 minutes

Claims filed with one of the following codes will deny as use alternate codes as claims must be filed with one of the above CPT codes in this policy.

**S9452** Nutrition classes, non-physician provider, per session

**S9470** Nutritional counseling, dietitian visit

**G0270** Medical nutrition therapy; reassessment and subsequent intervention(s) following second referral in same year for change in diagnosis, medical condition or treatment regimen (including additional hours needed for renal disease) individual, face-to-face with patient, each 15 minutes

**G0271** Medical nutrition therapy; reassessment and subsequent intervention(s) following second referral in same year for change in diagnosis, medical condition or treatment regimen (including additional hours needed for renal disease), group (two or more individuals), each 30 minutes

### **RELATED POLICIES**

Diabetes Self-Management Education Mandate  
Preventive Services for Commercial Members  
Preventive Services for Medicare Advantage Plans  
Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition Therapy  
Oral Nutrition Mandate

### **PUBLISHED**

Provider Update, September 2021  
Provider Update, July 2020  
Provider Update, April 2018  
Provider Update, April 2017  
Provider Update, June 2010

### **REFERENCES:**

Medicare Medical Nutrition Therapy Services – Overview. Retrieved on 01/25/08 from [www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicalNutritionTherapy/](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicalNutritionTherapy/)

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