

Payment Policy | Nutritional Counseling/Medical Nutritional Therapy



EFFECTIVE DATE: 02 | 19 | 2008

POLICY LAST REVIEWED: 4 | 1 | 2026

OVERVIEW

This is a payment policy that documents the claims filing for nutritional counseling/medical nutritional therapy. The primary purpose of these services is to improve health outcomes for our members. 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 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 or improve health outcomes.

*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 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, May 2026
Provider Update, September 2021
Provider Update, July 2020
Provider Update, April 2018
Provider Update, April 2017
Provider Update, June 2010

REFERENCES:

1. Medicare Medical Nutrition Therapy Services – Overview. Retrieved on 01/25/08 from www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicalNutritionTherapy/
2. [Preventive Services - NGS MEDICARE](#)
3. <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r11272NCD.pdf>

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