

Medical Coverage Policies

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Nutritional Counseling/Medical Nutritional Therapy (MNT)

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|-------------------------|--|---------------------|------------|
| EFFECTIVE DATE | 02/19/2008 | LAST UPDATED | 04/06/2010 |
| RELATED POLICIES | Diabetes Self Management Education Mandate | | |

Description:

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 therapies to treat an illness or condition.

Nutritional counseling/MNT is covered when ordered by a physician and provided by a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist to treat an illness or medical condition in which MNT is proven to be effective for treatment.

Medical Criteria:

Not applicable, this is a reimbursement policy.

Policy:

Nutritional counseling/MNT is a covered service when provided by a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist.

Coverage:

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage, Subscriber Agreement, or R/te Care contract for the applicable "Office visits/nutritional counseling" benefits. Note: All inpatient services are inclusive in the inpatient stay.

BlueCHIP for Medicare covers more benefits than does traditional Medicare.

Diabetes Management:

Visits for Nutritional Counseling/MNT are not counted as part of the visits for diabetes education as defined in the *Diabetes Treatment Mandate* benefit. For information relating to the diabetic mandate, please refer to the policy titled: *Diabetes Treatment Mandate*.

For information relating to nutritional management of diabetes by a Certified Diabetes Outpatient Education (CDOE) specialist please refer to the *Diabetes Self-Management Education Mandate*.

Coding:

The following codes are covered only when services are provided by a Registered Dietician/Nutritionist for all lines of business:

97802

97803

97804

Six or more units will be priced at six units for CPT codes 97802 and 97803.

Three or more units will be priced at three units for CPT code 97804.

The following codes are not separately reimbursed for all lines of business. Appropriate CPT codes should be reported:

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 Topics:

Diabetes Treatment Mandate

Diabetes Self-Management Education Mandate

Published:

Policy Update, October 2000
Policy Update, June 2007
Provider Update, April 2008
Provider Update, June 2010

References:

Medical Nutrition Therapy Services – Overview. Retrieved on 01/25/08 from www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicalNutritionTherapy/

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This policy is current at the time of publication; however, medical practices, technology, and knowledge are constantly changing. BCBSRI reserves the right to review and revise this policy for any reason and at any time, with or without notice.

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