

Payment Policy | Nutritional Counseling/ Medical Nutritional Therapy



EFFECTIVE DATE: 02|19|2008
POLICY LAST UPDATED: 02|19|2008

OVERVIEW

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.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not applicable

POLICY STATEMENT

Nutritional counseling/medical nutritional therapy is a covered service for **all BCBSRI products when ordered by a physician and provided by a registered dietician/nutritionist or CDOE.**

Nutritional counseling/medical nutritional therapy is covered as defined by the Federal Healthcare Reform.

MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable

BACKGROUND

Nutritional counseling/MNT is covered when ordered by a physician and provided by a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist or a Certified Diabetes Outpatient Educator (CDOE) to treat an illness or medical condition in which MNT is proven to be effective for treatment

COVERAGE

BlueCHiP for Medicare | Commercial |

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.

Note: Nutritional therapy is inclusive in a hospital inpatient stay.

BlueCHiP for Medicare covers more benefits than does traditional Medicare. Please see the "Preventive Services for BlueCHiP for Medicare" policy

Diabetes Management:

Visits for Nutritional Counseling/MNT are not counted as part of the visits for diabetes education as defined in the Diabetes Self-Management Education Mandate benefit. 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

BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial

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

97802

97803

97804

The following codes are **not separately reimbursed**. Appropriate CPT codes should be reported:

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 BlueCHiP for Medicare

PUBLISHED

Provider Update May 2013

Provider Update June 2010

Provider Update Apr 2008

Policy Update June 2007

Policy Update Oct 2000

REFERENCES

None

[CLICK THE ENVELOPE ICON BELOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS](#)

This medical policy is made available to you for informational purposes only. It is not a guarantee of payment or a substitute for your medical judgment in the treatment of your patients. Benefits and eligibility are determined by the member's subscriber agreement or member certificate and/or the employer agreement, and those documents will supersede the provisions of this medical policy. For information on member-specific benefits, call the provider call center. If you provide services to a member which are determined to not be medically necessary (or in some cases medically necessary services which are non-covered benefits), you may not charge the member for the services unless you have informed the member and they have agreed in writing in advance to continue with the treatment at their own expense. Please refer to your participation agreement(s) for the applicable provisions. 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. Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

