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

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