



EFFECTIVE DATE: 12|01|2014
POLICY LAST UPDATED: 08|01|2017

OVERVIEW

This policy provides the criteria for coverage for non-prescription nutritional formulas for home use (i.e., Ensure, Boost, etc.) delivered orally, low protein foods, or special medical formulas as prescribed by a physician for treatment of malabsorption caused by Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, gastroesophageal reflux, chronic intestinal pseudo obstruction, and inherited diseases of amino acids and organic acids.

This policy is applicable to Commercial products only.

This policy does not address enteral nutrition therapy as the sole source of nutrition delivered through a feeding tube. See Related Policies section for Enteral/Parenteral Nutrition Therapy policy.

This policy is to address the language in the mandate and the claims submission process. Prior authorization is handled via our online tool.

MEDICAL CRITERIA

Commercial Products

Treatment with low protein food products is covered when ordered by a physician for individuals with inherited diseases of amino acids and organic acids caused by the following conditions such as, but not limited to:

- Phenylketonuria (PKU)
- Tyrosinemia
- Homocystinuria
- Maple syrup urine disease
- propionic aciduria and methylmalonic aciduria

Treatment with oral nutritional formulas or special medical formulas (i.e., Neocate, Boost, Ensure) for home use is covered when ordered by a physician for **individuals with malabsorption caused by:**

- Crohn's disease; or
- Ulcerative colitis; or
- Gastroesophageal reflux; or
- Chronic intestinal pseudo obstruction; or
- Inherited diseases of amino acids and organic acids.

Low protein food products, oral nutritional formulas, and special medical formulas are **non-covered** and a contractual exclusion for all commercial products when the criteria above are not met.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Commercial Products

Prior authorization is recommended for Commercial products only and is obtained via the online tool for participating providers. See the Related Policies section.

The following prior authorization form is for use by non-participating providers.



Preauth Request
for Oral Nutrition N

BlueCHiP for Medicare

Not applicable

POLICY STATEMENT

Commercial Products

Treatment with low protein food products, oral nutritional formulas, or special medical formulas are covered for all Commercial products when the criteria in the online tool is met. Those services not meeting the criteria are not covered and are a contract exclusion.

Process for Member submitted reimbursement requests:

Following preauthorization approval, the member can be reimbursed for the food products. The member must submit itemized receipt(s) highlighting or circling the special foods purchased, together with the reimbursement form listing the special foods purchased within one year from the date of purchase to:

Attention: Claims Department
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island
500 Exchange Street
Providence, RI 02903-2699



Oral Enteral Food
Products Reimburse

BlueCHiP for Medicare

Not applicable

COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups and contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Benefit Booklet, Evidence of Coverage, or Subscriber Agreement for applicable “Medical Equipment, Enteral Formula or Food, Medical Supplies, and Prosthetic Devices” benefits/coverage.

BACKGROUND

Rhode Island General Law (RIGL) 27-20-56 mandates coverage for nutrition products:

§ 27-20-56 Enteral nutrition products. – (a) *Every individual or group health insurance contract, or every individual or group hospital or medical expense insurance policy, plan, or group policy delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state on or after January 1, 2009, shall provide coverage for non-prescription enteral formulas for home use for which a physician has issued a written order and that are medically necessary for the treatment of malabsorption caused by Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, gastroesophageal reflux, chronic intestinal pseudo obstruction, and inherited diseases of amino acids and organic acids. Coverage for inherited diseases of amino acids and organic acids shall include food products modified to be low protein and shall extend to all recipients regardless of age.*

Definition of Oral Nutrition:

- *Non-prescription* nutritional formulas for home use consist of nutritional liquids (i.e., Ensure, Boost, etc.) delivered orally.

- *Low protein food* products are defined as food products that have been modified to be low in protein for individuals who have been diagnosed with phenylketonuria (PKU) and other inherited diseases of amino acids and organic acids.
- *Special medical formulas (i.e., Neocate)* are formulas labeled for use by infants and children who have inborn errors of metabolism. These infant formulas are not typically found in retail stores for general consumer purchase, they must be prescribed by a physician and requested from a pharmacy.

Effective January 1, 2014, Qualified Health Plans (QHPs) are required to cover Essential Health Benefits (EHBs), as defined in Section 1302(b) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. As groups renewed in 2014, most benefit plans were updated to include these EHBs (some exceptions may apply to certain large groups; consult your Subscriber Agreement or Benefit Booklet for details).

Coverage for oral nutritional is included in the Rhode Island Benchmark Plan that defines the EHBs for RI QHPs. Federal mandates regarding EHBs supersede RI state mandates with regards to removing any annual and lifetime dollar limits.

Rhode Island-mandated benefits do not apply to BlueCHiP for Medicare plans, unless noted in Policy Section. Self-funded groups may or may not choose to follow state mandates.

CODING

Commercial Products

The following HCPCS codes are covered for low protein food products when the criteria is met:

S9433 Medical food nutritionally complete, administered orally, providing 100% of nutritional intake

S9434 Modified solid food supplements for inborn errors of metabolism

S9435 Medical foods for inborn errors of metabolism

RELATED POLICIES

Enteral/Parenteral Nutrition Therapy

Preauthorization via Web-Based Tool for Durable Medical Equipment (DME)

PUBLISHED

Provider Update, October 2017

Provider Update, June 2016

Provider Update, October 2015

Provider Update, November 2014

Provider Update, January 2014

Provider Update, February 2012

Provider Update, December 2010

REFERENCES

Rhode Island General Law (RIGL) 27-20-55: Enteral Nutrition Products. Retrieved 03/24/2017 from <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText08/HouseText08/H7441aa.pdf>

Public Law 2014, Chapter 269. <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/PublicLaws/law14/law14269.htm>

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