

The Office of Vermont Health Access Medical Guidelines

Subject: Nutritional Therapy (Enteral Nutrition and Parenteral Nutrition)

Last Review: June 28, 2011

Revision 3:

Revision 2:

Revision 1: June 28, 2011

Original Effective: 6/01/2004

Description of Service or Procedure

According to the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN):

Enteral Nutrition is the provision of nutrients via the gastrointestinal (GI) tract through a feeding tube, catheter or stoma. Enteral nutrition is the preferred route for the provision of nutrition for patients who cannot meet their nutritional needs through voluntary oral intake.

Parenteral Nutrition is a form of nutrition that bypasses the normal digestion in the stomach and bowel. It is a special liquid food mixture given into the blood through an intravenous (IV) catheter (needle in the vein). The mixture contains proteins, carbohydrates (sugars), fats, vitamins and minerals (such as calcium). This special mixture may be called parenteral nutrition and was once called total parenteral nutrition (TPN), or hyperalimentation.

Disclaimer

Coverage is limited to that outlined in Medicaid Rule that pertains to the beneficiary's aid category. Prior authorization is only valid if the beneficiary is eligible for the applicable item or service on the date of service.

Medicaid Rule

[7102.2](#) Prior Authorization Determination

[7103](#) Medical Necessity

[7502.4](#) Prescribed Drugs- Vitamins and Minerals

[7504](#) Medical Supplies

[7505](#) Durable Medical Equipment

Coverage Position

Nutritional support (enteral, parenteral or nutritional supplements) may be covered for those individuals:

- When the nutritional support is prescribed by a licensed medical provider enrolled in the VT Medicaid program who is knowledgeable in the use of alternative nutritional methods and who provides medical care to the beneficiary **AND**
- Who meet the clinical guidelines below.

Coverage guidelines

Nutritional support is a covered service for the beneficiary when administered enterally and when:

- The beneficiary has a diagnosis for which enteral nutrition products are indicated (i.e.: dysphasia, neuromuscular illness, head and neck cancers, gastroparesis) **AND**
- There is a functioning gastrointestinal tract **AND**
- There is a pathology or nonfunctioning of the structures of the digestive system and the beneficiary cannot maintain weight and strength **AND**
- The beneficiary has a nasogastric, jejunostomy or gastrostomy tube (selection of appropriate route must take into account the expected duration of treatment, clinical condition of patient and level of consciousness of the patient) **AND**
- The clinical documentation supports need for enteral nutrition (lab measurements demonstrating malnutrition, height, weight, BMI, past treatments and estimated duration of need.) **AND**
- The beneficiary has a caregiver who has been trained to provide the feedings **OR** the beneficiary is able to independently administer the feedings.

Nutritional support is a covered service for the beneficiary when administered parenterally and when:

- The gastrointestinal tract is nonfunctional or cannot be accessed and the patient cannot be adequately nourished by oral diets or enteral nutrition **AND**
- The beneficiary has a diagnosis of a disorder or disease process which impairs absorption of sufficient nutrients to preserve weight **AND**
- There is documentation of failed enteral nutrition **AND**
- Clinical documentation supports need for parenteral nutrition (lab measurements demonstrating malnutrition, height, weight, BMI and past treatments.) **AND**
- The beneficiary has a caregiver who has been trained to provide the feedings **OR** the beneficiary is able to independently administer the feedings.

Clinical guidelines for repeat service or procedure

Patient must meet criteria listed above.

Type of service or procedure covered

Nutritional Support is covered for/when:

- Low protein modified food products for treatment of an inherited metabolic disease, as required by [Act 128 of the 1998 legislative session](#)
- It is consistent with the patients medical condition and plan of care

Type of service or procedure not covered (this list may not be all inclusive)

Nutritional support is not covered for/when:

- Items or services furnished, paid for or authorized by an entity of the Federal Government
- Nutritional support taken orally i.e. non-medical foods

References

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