

Premier Health Plan

POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Policy Number: MP.048.PH
Last Review Date: 08/09/2018
Effective Date: 10/01/2018

MP.048.PH - Medical Nutrition Therapy for Chronic Disease Management

This policy applies to the following lines of business:

- ✓ Premier Employee

Premier Health Plan considers **Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) for Chronic Disease Management** medically necessary for the following indications:

MNT will only be considered for coverage when all of the following conditions are met:

1. Member has one or more chronic diseases listed in this Indications section for which dietary adjustment has a therapeutic role;
2. Prescribed by a physician;
3. MNT is furnished by a Certified Nutrition Specialist (CNS), Licensed Dietician/Nutritionist (LDN), Registered Dietician (RD), or Certified Nutrition Support Clinician (CNSC)

A sudden rapid deterioration in nutritional status or other change in a medical condition, diagnosis, or treatment plan making change in diet necessary, may dictate the need for more intensive MNT.

Coverage of MNT visits includes for the covered diagnoses listed below:

1. One initial visit for assessment (nutritional and lifestyle) specific to the medical condition(s) and information to manage lifestyle factors that affect diet
 2. One follow-up visit to monitor progress (**Total of 2 visits per benefit year**)
- Or
3. One initial assessment and 5 additional visits only for the diagnosis of morbid obesity (**Total of 6 visits per benefit year**)

EXCEPTIONS: The total number of covered MNT visits is unlimited for high risk obstetrics, renal disease, diabetes mellitus, and spina bifida/ spinal cord injuries.

Specific indications for each covered diagnosis (Exceptions included):

Diagnoses with a Total of 2 Covered MNT Visits per Benefit Year (an Initial Visit and a Follow-up Visit):

1. Cardiac Disease when any of the following criteria are met:
 - Coronary artery/cardiovascular disease



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- Congestive heart failure
 - High risk factors for developing cardiac disease
 - Hyperlipidemia
 - Hypertension
2. Celiac Disease (Small intestinal inflammation resulting from an immunologic intolerance to gluten):
- Treatment of this disease is primarily dietary which consists of a strict gluten- (the proteins derived from wheat, barley, rye and oats) free diet that includes elimination of food and non-food items
3. Obesity (Pediatric) when both of the following criteria are met (per the American Medical Association's June 2007 recommendations):
- Child is between the ages of 2 and 19 years
 - BMI is above the 85th percentile
4. Select Diseases of the small bowel:
- Small Bowel Crohn's Disease
 - Short Bowel Syndrome
 - Intestinal Malabsorption Syndrome
5. Symptomatic Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Disease/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS):
- For early intervention to optimize nutritional status and improve immune function

Diagnosis with a Total of 6 Covered MNT Visits per Benefit Year (an Initial Visit and 5 Follow-up Visits):

Morbid obesity (Adult) when any of the following criteria are met:

- Diagnosis of morbid obesity as determined by Body Mass Index (BMI) equal to or greater than 35;
- Required weight loss prior to major surgery in order to prevent complications posed by obesity when it coexists with other pathological conditions; or
- As part of a multidisciplinary weight loss program in preparation for bariatric surgery.

Diagnoses Exceptions with Unlimited Covered MNT Visits (an Initial Visit and Unlimited Follow-up Visits):

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1. Obstetrical patients with any of the following high risk criteria are eligible for unlimited visits:
 - Gestational Diabetes;
 - Adolescents (less than 18years);
 - Multiple gestations;
 - Pre-pregnancy BMI of >30 or <19.1;
 - Pre-existing condition requiring nutritional intervention (diabetes, cardiac disease)
 - Poor weight gain
 - Hyperemesis gravidarum
2. Patients with renal disease when any of the following criteria are met are eligible for unlimited visits:
 - Chronic renal insufficiency (the stage of renal disease associated with a reduction in renal function not severe enough to require dialysis or transplantation)
 - End stage renal disease
 - Existing renal disease 36 months after a kidney transplant
3. Diabetes mellitus when all the following criteria are met are eligible for unlimited visits:
 - Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus
 - MNT is an entirely separate benefit from Diabetes Self-Management Training (DSMT) - these classes are for the education of a member in all aspects of diabetes not just MNT
4. Spina bifida/spinal cord injuries are eligible for unlimited visits:
 - To assist in optimizing nutritional status in order to promote healthy growth and development and to aid in the prevention of skin breakdown.

Limitation: Facilities may bill for services provided by a CNS, LDN, and RD.

Background

According to the American Diabetes Association (ADA), nearly 26 million adults and children have diabetes. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also reported that between 1980-2011, the number of Americans diagnosed with diabetes more than tripled from 5.6 million to 20.9 million.

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Nutrition and diet play an important role in helping individuals with certain diseases manage their health. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) define medical nutrition therapy (MNT) services as nutritional diagnostic, therapeutic, and counsel services provided by an appropriate provider. The goal of MNT is to assist these individuals with making nutritional changes which can lead to improved health and prevent or reduce complications from their conditions. A CNS, LDN, or RD is required to provide the range of services which are considered MNT.

The American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE), defines Diabetes Self-Management Education (DSME) as a collaborative process through which people with or at risk for diabetes gain the knowledge and skills needed to modify behavior and successfully self-manage the disease and its related conditions.

Codes:

CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD-10 Codes	
Code	Description
CPT Codes	
97802	Medical nutrition therapy, initial assessment and intervention, individual, face to face with the patient, each 15 min
97803	Medical nutrition therapy, re-assessment and intervention, individual, face to face with the patient, each 15 minutes
97804	Medical nutrition therapy, group (2 or more individuals), each 30 minutes
HCPCS codes covered if selection criteria are met (If Appropriate):	
G0270	Medical nutrition therapy; reassessment and subsequent intervention(s) following second referral in the same year for change in diagnosis, medical condition or treatment regimen (including additional hours needed for renal disease), individual, face to face with the patient, each 15 minutes
G0271	Medical nutrition therapy, reassessment and subsequent intervention(s) following second referral in the same year for change in diagnosis, medical condition or treatment regimen (including additional hours needed for renal disease), group (2 or more individuals), each 30 minutes
ICD-10 codes covered if selection criteria are met:	

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B20	Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease
E08-E13.9	Diabetes mellitus
E78.0-E78.9	Disorders of lipoprotein metabolism and other lipidemias
E66.0-E68	Overweight, obesity, and other hyperalimentation
G81.00-G83.9	Paralytic syndromes
I10-I15.9	Hypertensive diseases
I20.1-I25.9	Ischemic heart disease
I42.0-I42.9	Cardiomyopathy
I50.1-I50.9	Heart failure
I70.0-I70.92	Atherosclerosis
K50.00-K50.019	Crohn's disease of small intestine without/with complications
K50.80-K50.819	Crohn's disease of small intestine and large intestine without/with complications
K50.90-K50.919	Crohn's disease, unspecified without and with complications
K90.0-K90.9	Intestinal malabsorption (including Celiac disease and short bowel syndrome)
N00.0-N00.7	Diseases of genitourinary system
N27.9	Small kidney, unspecified
O09	Supervision of high risk pregnancy
O24.0-O24.92	Diabetes mellitus in pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium
O25.1-O25.3	Malnutrition in pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium
Q05.0-Q05.9	Spina bifida
Q07.01-Q07.03	Arnold-Chiari syndrome with spina bifida
S14.0-S14.9XXS	Injury of nerves and spinal cord at neck level
S24.0-S24.9XXS	Injury of nerves and spinal cord at thorax level
S34.0-S34.9XXS	Injury of lumbar and sacral cord and nerves at abdomen, lower back, and pelvis level
Z68.35-Z68.45	Body mass index (BMI) 35.0 or greater
Z68.53-Z68.54	85 th percentile or greater for age
Z94.0	History of kidney transplant

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Z95.1-Z95.9	Presence of cardiac and vascular implants and grafts (excluding pacemakers)
Z96.41	Presence of insulin pump (external) (internal)
Z98.84	Bariatric surgery status
Z99.2	Dependence on renal dialysis

References

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Disclaimer:

Premier Health Plan medical payment and prior authorization policies do not constitute medical advice and are not intended to govern or otherwise influence the practice of medicine. The policies constitute only the reimbursement and coverage guidelines of Premier Health Plan and its affiliated managed care entities. Coverage for services varies for individual members in accordance with the terms and conditions of applicable Certificates of Coverage, Summary Plan Descriptions, or contracts with governing regulatory agencies.

Premier Health Plan reserves the right to review and update the medical payment and prior authorization guidelines in its sole discretion. Notice of such changes, if necessary, shall be provided in accordance with the terms and conditions of provider agreements and any applicable laws or regulations.

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