



State of Vermont
Agency of Human Services
280 State Drive, Center Building
Waterbury, VT 05671-1000

Global Commitment Register

May 28, 2021

GCR 20-029
PROPOSED

Medical Nutrition Therapy – Registered Dietitian Services

Policy Summary:

The Vermont Medicaid program proposes to limit medical nutrition therapy (MNT) services to delivery by a registered dietitian.

MNT must be provided by a registered dietitian certified to practice in Vermont and working as part of a multidisciplinary approach delivering services as prescribed by the beneficiary's physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse. MNT is nutritional diagnostic, therapy, and counseling services for the management of a medical condition. MNT includes individualized dietary assessment that is more complex than basic nutrition counseling. Other licensed providers may provide basic nutritional counseling as within their scope of practice. MNT services will be reimbursed according to the Resource-Based Relative Value Scale (RBRVS) fee schedule.

Additional information including clinical coverage criteria is included below.

This change will be submitted to the Centers for Medicaid and Medicaid services as State Plan Amendment (SPA) # 21-0011. This service will also be added to the Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP) for the New Adult Group through SPA 21-0015. The ABP replicates the full Medicaid State Plan and includes the 10 essential health benefits required under the Affordable Care Act, as well as the full range of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) services for individuals under the age of 21.

Effective Date:

July 1, 2021

Authority/Legal Basis:

[Medicaid State Plan](#)

[Global Commitment to Health Waiver](#): Waiver authority #5 [Section 1902(a)(13), 1902(a)(30)]; Special Term and Condition #29.

Population Affected:

All Medicaid

Fiscal Impact:

No fiscal impact

Public Comment Period:

May 28, 2021 – June 28, 2021

Send comments to:

Medicaid Policy Unit

280 State Drive, Center Building

Waterbury, VT 05671-1000

Or submit via e-mail to AHS.MedicaidPolicy@vermont.gov.

To be added to the GCR email list, send an email to AHS.MedicaidPolicy@vermont.gov.

Additional Information:

The Department of Vermont Health Access Clinical Criteria provides additional information on the codes for MNT, and limits on covered services. The clinical criteria can be found below.

The draft SPA provides additional details on the proposed changes; copies of the draft SPA can be requested from local Department for Children and Families (DCF) offices or from DVHA at (802) 355-8843, or can be found on the [Agency of Human Services website](#).

The Department of Vermont Health Access Clinical Criteria

Subject: Medical Nutrition Therapy – Registered Dietitian Services
Initial Review: July 2021

Description of Service or Procedure

Medical nutrition therapy is limited to services provided by registered dietitians (RD) and registered dietitian nutritionists (RDN) who have met the Commission on Dietetic Registration’s criteria to earn the RD credential and are certified to practice in Vermont.

Medical nutrition therapy, including diagnostic and counseling services, is covered when medically necessary and prescribed by a qualified health professional (physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, osteopath, naturopath) for the management of a nutrition related medical condition.

Other qualified medical professionals may provide nutrition counseling as within their scope of practice, but this service must be billed under evaluation and management services.

Disclaimer

Coverage is limited to that outlined in Medicaid Rule or Health Care Administrative Rules that pertains to the beneficiary’s aid category. Prior Authorization (PA) is only valid if the beneficiary is eligible for the applicable item or service on the date of service.

Medicaid Rule

Health Care Administrative Rules can be found at <https://humanservices.vermont.gov/rules-policies/health-care-rules/health-care-administrative-rules-hcar>

Medicaid Rules

- 7102.2 Prior Authorization Determination
- 4.101 Medical Necessity for Covered Services
- 4.106 Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) Services

Coverage Position

RD or RDN services may be covered for beneficiaries:



- When the services are prescribed by a licensed medical provider enrolled in the Vermont Medicaid program, operating within their scope of practice as described in their Vermont State Practice Act, Statute, or rule, who is knowledgeable regarding dietitian services and who provides medical care to the beneficiary AND
- When the clinical criteria below are met.

Coverage Criteria

RD or RDN services may be covered for beneficiaries who:

- Have a nutrition related medical condition, either acute or chronic, that requires an individual treatment plan more involved than basic nutrition counseling that might be provided by a primary care provider; AND
- The RD or RDN is working in conjunction with their primary care provider or multidisciplinary team to determine the beneficiary's daily food intake, level of physical activity, medication and other factors that contribute to poor nutritional status.

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT): Vermont Medicaid will provide comprehensive services and furnish all Medicaid coverable, appropriate, and medically necessary services needed to correct and ameliorate health conditions for Medicaid members under age 21.

Type of service or procedure covered

One initial visit and up to five (5) visits for reassessment and subsequent interventions per calendar year are covered, which may be for individual or group sessions. Telehealth sessions are allowable, if appropriate. Additional sessions require prior authorization.

For beneficiaries enrolled in an accredited bariatric surgery program, six (6) sessions per calendar year are covered. This includes outpatient individual and group sessions during the preoperative and postoperative period. Additional sessions require prior authorization.

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

Referral to individuals who are not registered dietitians or registered dietitian nutritionists certified in Vermont. A referral may not be made to an individual who is registration eligible and not yet registered as a dietitian with the Commission on Dietetic Registration.

Coding guidelines

97802
97803
97804

References

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment. Retrieved August 22, 2019, from: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/epsdt/index.html>

Counseling the Outpatient Bariatric Client. Megan Tempest, RD. Today's Dietitian, Vol.14, January 2012. <https://www.todaysdietitian.com/newarchives/011012p38.shtml>

Importance of Nutrition Visits After Gastric Bypass Surgery for American Veterans. Win, A., Ceresa, C., Schafer, A., et al. Preventing Chronic Disease. December 24, 2014. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4279866/>

What is Medical Nutrition Therapy? All You Need to Know. Lauren Panoff, RD. Healthline, February 18, 2020. <https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/nutrition-therapy>

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: Scope of Practice for the Registered Dietitian. Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Volume 113, Issue 6, Supplement. June 1, 2013. [https://jandonline.org/article/S2212-2672\(12\)01937-5/fulltext](https://jandonline.org/article/S2212-2672(12)01937-5/fulltext)

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: Revised 2017 Scope of Practice for the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. Volume 118, Issue 1, January 1, 2018. [https://jandonline.org/article/S2212-2672\(17\)31624-6/fulltext](https://jandonline.org/article/S2212-2672(17)31624-6/fulltext)

Vermont Secretary of State, Office of Professional Regulation: Dietitians. <https://sos.vermont.gov/dietitians/>

This document has been classified as public information.