

Clinical Policy: Enteral Nutrition

Reference Number: LA.CP.MP.500c

Date of Last Revision: 11/23

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Description

Enteral Nutrition (EN) aids in the preservation of the gastrointestinal tract by direct absorption of enteral nutrients into the small intestine. It is easier and safer to administer than parenteral nutrition due to absence of an intravenous access. The short-term methods (< 3 months) are best administered by a percutaneous gastrostomy or jejunostomy tube. Enteral nutritional therapy is considered reasonable and necessary for a beneficiary when medical documentation, such as hospital records and clinical findings, support an independent conclusion that the member/enrollee has a permanently (> 1 month) inoperative internal body organ or function which does not allow ingestion and/or absorption of sufficient nutrients to maintain weight and strength commensurate with the beneficiary's general condition.

Policy/Criteria

- I. It is the policy of Louisiana HealthCare Connections that enteral nutritional supplements are **medically necessary** for adults and children when meeting, both of the following (A-B):
 - A. Requirement for enteral feeding must be for an average of at least 750 calories per day over the prescribed period and must constitute at least 70 percent of the daily caloric intake. Coverage of prescribed feedings of less than an average of 750 calories per day may only be considered with additional physician documentation and justification of the reason for prescribing less than an average of 750 calories per day. Baby food and other regular grocery products that can be used with an enteral system are not covered.
 1. Enteral formulas are covered for members/enrollees of all ages when the beneficiary has a diagnosis of an inborn error of metabolism made by a physician board certified in medical genetics or an advanced practice registered nurse collaborating with, or a physician assistant supervised by, a physician board certified in medical genetics **WITHOUT** Prior authorization
 2. Enteral formulas are also covered and considered medically necessary **WITHOUT** prior authorization if a beneficiary is suspected of having an inborn error of metabolism, pending the results of a definitive evaluation, when such enteral formula is needed to prevent morbidity. In this case, the enteral formula does not need to be ordered by a specialist.
- II. All requests must include the following information:
 - A. Name of the nutrient product or nutrient category
 - B. The physician(s) must document the reason for prescribing a formula including beneficiary's diagnoses.

- C. Number of calories prescribed by enteral feeding per day (100 calories equals one unit) and whether the prescribed amount constitutes 70 percent or more of the daily caloric intake;
- D. Frequency of administration per day;
- E. Method of administration (oral or, if tube, whether syringe, gravity, or pump fed);
- F. Route of administration, if tube fed (i.e., nasogastric, jejunostomy, gastrostomy, percutaneous enteral gastrostomy, or naso-intestinal tube); and
- G. Reason for use of a pump, if prescribed must include the following documentation:
 - 1. A standard enteral infusion pump will be approved only with documented evidence that the pump is medically necessary and that syringe or gravity feedings are not satisfactory due to complications such as aspiration, diarrhea, dumping syndrome, etc
 - 2. Louisiana HealthCare Connections will pay for the rental of a standard enteral infusion pump and accessories.
 - 3. Louisiana HealthCare Connections can pay for repairs not covered by the warranty or lease agreement

III. It is the policy of Louisiana HealthCare Connections that enteral nutritional therapy for temporary impairments or for convenience feeding via gastrostomy is considered **not medically necessary**.

Coding Implications

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| CPT® Codes | Description |
|------------|-------------|
| N/A | |

| HCPCS Codes | Description |
|-------------|--|
| B4034 | Enteral feeding supply kit; syringe fed, per day, includes but not limited to feeding/flushing syringe, administration set tubing, dressings, tape |
| B4035 | Enteral feeding supply kit; pump fed, per day, includes but not limited to feeding/flushing syringe, administration set tubing, dressings, tape |
| B4036 | Enteral feeding supply kit; gravity fed, per day, includes but not limited to feeding/flushing syringe, administration set tubing, dressings, tape |
| B4081 | Nasogastric tubing with stylet |

| HCPCS Codes | Description |
|-------------|--|
| B4082 | Nasogastric tubing without stylet |
| B4083 | Stomach tube - Levine type |
| B4088 | Gastrostomy/jejunostomy tube, low-profile, any material, any type, each |
| B4100 | Food thickener, administered orally, per oz |
| B4102 | Enteral formula, for adults, used to replace fluids and electrolytes (e.g., clear liquids), 500 ml = 1 unit |
| B4103 | Enteral formula, for pediatrics, used to replace fluids and electrolytes (e.g., clear liquids), 500 ml = 1 unit |
| B4104 | Additive for enteral formula (e.g., fiber) |
| B4149 | Enteral formula, manufactured blenderized natural foods with intact nutrients, includes proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, may include fiber, administered through an enteral feeding tube, 100 calories = 1 unit |
| B4150 | Enteral formula, nutritionally complete with intact nutrients, includes proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, may include fiber, administered through an enteral feeding tube, 100 calories = 1 unit |
| B4152 | Enteral formula, nutritionally complete, calorically dense (equal to or greater than 1.5 kcal/ml) with intact nutrients, includes proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, may include fiber, administered through an enteral feeding tube, 100 calories = 1 unit |
| B4153 | Enteral formula, nutritionally complete, hydrolyzed proteins (amino acids and peptide chain), includes fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, may include fiber, administered through an enteral feeding tube, 100 calories = 1 unit |
| B4154 | Enteral formula, nutritionally complete, for special metabolic needs, excludes inherited disease of metabolism, includes altered composition of proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and/or minerals, may include fiber, administered through an enteral feeding tube, 100 calories = 1 unit |
| B4155 | Enteral formula, nutritionally incomplete/modular nutrients, includes specific nutrients, carbohydrates (e.g., glucose polymers), proteins/amino acids (e.g., glutamine, arginine), fat (e.g., medium chain triglycerides) or combination, administered through an enteral feeding tube, 100 calories = 1 unit |
| B4157 | Enteral formula, nutritionally complete, for special metabolic needs for inherited disease of metabolism, includes proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, may include fiber, administered through an enteral feeding tube, 100 calories = 1 unit |
| B4158 | Enteral formula, for pediatrics, nutritionally complete with intact nutrients, includes proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, may include fiber and/or iron, administered through an enteral feeding tube, 100 calories = 1 unit |
| B4159 | Enteral formula, for pediatrics, nutritionally complete soy based with intact nutrients, includes proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, may include fiber and/or iron, administered through an enteral feeding tube, 100 calories = 1 unit |
| B4160 | Enteral formula, for pediatrics, nutritionally complete calorically dense (equal to or greater than 0.7 kcal/ml) with intact nutrients, includes proteins, fats, |

| HCPCS Codes | Description |
|-------------|---|
| | carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, may include fiber, administered through an enteral feeding tube, 100 calories = 1 unit |
| B4161 | Enteral formula, for pediatrics, hydrolyzed/amino acids and peptide chain proteins, includes fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, may include fiber, administered through an enteral feeding tube, 100 calories = 1 unit |
| B4162 | Enteral formula, for pediatrics, special metabolic needs for inherited disease of metabolism, includes proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, may include fiber, administered through an enteral feeding tube, 100 calories = 1 unit |
| B9002 | Enteral nutrition infusion pump, any type |
| B9998 | NOC for enteral supplies |
| E0776 | Portable IV pole with adjustable stand to hang bags of fluids or medications |

| Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals | Revision Date | Approval Date |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Criteria annual review in LA.UM.10.50 | 05/19 | 05/19 |
| Clinical policy created from medical necessity criteria removed from LA.UM.10.50. Policy restructured and reworded for clarity. | 06/19 | |
| Formatting changes only | 08/19 | |
| Added supportive oncology 2011 reference Added to Administration of pharmaceutical agents: chemotherapy, chronic renal failure or long term antibiotic use and that it doesn't include ADHD meds | 10/19 | |
| Added what is not covered for enteral feedings Added review time frame for enteral feedings Added caloric criteria for enteral feedings Added LDH Reference | 04/21 | |
| Changed name of policy from Enteral and Oral Nutrition Supplements to Enteral Nutrition. Changed revision date in header to read Date of Last Revision. Updated description to match LDH description. Combined the 750 calorie day prescription with I.B. and added language from LDH provider manual. Added section to include the information that is required in all requests. Removed sections on oral nutrition. Added HCPCS codes that are included on the DME listed fee service: B4034, B4035, B4036, B4081, B4082, B4083, B4088, B4100, B9002, B9998, E0776. Changed Date in revision log to say Revision Date. | 1/23 | 4/10/23 |
| Annual Review. Updated References. Removed "Documented presence of enteral tube" from section I. Updated Criteria in section I. Updated information and criteria in description. | 11/23 | 1/23/24 |

References

1. Louisiana Department of Health Durable Medical Equipment Provider Manual Issued September 1, 2010; updated 02/23/21
2. American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Nutrition. Reimbursement for medical foods for inborn errors of metabolism. *Pediatrics*. 1994; 93(5):860.
3. Louisiana Medicaid Program Ch18.Durable Medical Equipment Section 18.2, Specific Coverage pg. 47
4. Louisiana Medicaid Program DME Provider Manuel Section 18.2 page 43-44/66.

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. LHCC makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable LHCC administrative policies and procedures.

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This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members/enrollees. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members/enrollees. Members/enrollees should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

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