Nutritional Counseling/Medical Nutritional Therapy (MNT)

**Description:**
Nutritional counseling/Medical Nutritional Therapy (MNT) is an important part of the prevention and treatment of many diseases and conditions. It consists of a nutritional assessment, the assignment of a specific diet, counseling services, and/or specialized therapies to treat an illness or condition.

Nutritional counseling/MNT is covered when ordered by a physician and provided by a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist to treat an illness or medical condition in which MNT is proven to be effective for treatment.

**Medical Criteria:**
Not applicable, this is a reimbursement policy.

**Policy:**
Nutritional counseling/MNT is a covered service when provided by a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist.

**Coverage:**
Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage, Subscriber Agreement, or Rite Care contract for the applicable "Office visits/nutritional counseling" benefits. Note: All inpatient services are inclusive in the inpatient stay.

BlueCHIP for Medicare covers more benefits than does traditional Medicare.

**Diabetes Management:**
Visits for Nutritional Counseling/MNT are not counted as part of the visits for diabetes education as defined in the Diabetes Treatment Mandate benefit. For information relating to the diabetic mandate, please refer to the policy titled: Diabetes Treatment Mandate.

For information relating to nutritional management of diabetes by a Certified Diabetes Outpatient Education (CDOE) specialist please refer to the Diabetes Self-Management Education Mandate.

**Coding:**
The following codes are covered only when services are provided by a Registered Dietician/Nutritionist for all lines of business:

- 97802
- 97803
- 97804

Six or more units will be priced at six units for CPT codes 97802 and 97803. Three or more units will be priced at three units for CPT code 97804.

The following codes are not separately reimbursed for all lines of business. Appropriate CPT codes should be reported:

- S9470 Nutritional counseling, dietitian visit
- G0270 Medical nutrition therapy; reassessment and subsequent intervention(s) following second referral in same year for change in diagnosis, medical condition or treatment regimen (including additional hours needed for renal disease) individual, face-to-face with patient, each 15 minutes
- G0271 Medical nutrition therapy; reassessment and subsequent intervention(s) following second referral in same year for change in diagnosis, medical condition or treatment regimen (including additional hours needed for renal disease), group (two or more individuals), each 30 minutes

**Related Topics:**
- Diabetes Treatment Mandate
- Diabetes Self-Management Education Mandate

**Published:**
This medical policy is made available to you for informational purposes only. It is not a guarantee of payment or a substitute for your medical judgement in the treatment of your patients. Benefits and eligibility are determined by the member’s subscriber agreement or member certificate and/or the employer agreement, and those documents will supersede the provisions of this medical policy. For information on member-specific benefits, call the provider call center. If you provide services to a member which are determined to not be medically necessary (or in some cases medically necessary services which are non-covered benefits), you may not charge the member for the services unless you have informed the member and they have agreed in writing in advance to continue with the treatment at their own expense. Please refer to your participation agreement(s) for the applicable provisions.

This policy is current at the time of publication; however, medical practices, technology, and knowledge are constantly changing. BCBSRI reserves the right to review and revise this policy for any reason and at any time, with or without notice.