

Chapter 182-554 WAC

ENTERAL NUTRITION PROGRAM

WAC

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WAC 182-554-100 Enteral nutrition—General. (1)

The department covers the enteral nutrition products, equipment, and related supplies listed in this chapter, according to department rules and subject to the limitations and requirements in this chapter.

(2) The department pays for enteral nutrition products, equipment and related supplies when they are:

- (a) Covered;
- (b) Within the scope of the eligible client's medical care program;
- (c) Medically necessary as defined under WAC 388-500-0005;

(d) Authorized, as required within this chapter, chapters 388-501 and 388-502 WAC, and the department's published billing instructions and numbered memoranda; and

(e) Billed according to this chapter, chapters 388-501 and 388-502, and the department's published billing instructions and numbered memoranda.

(3) The department requires prior authorization for covered enteral nutrition products, equipment and related supplies when the clinical criteria set forth in this chapter are not met, including the criteria associated with the expedited prior authorization process. The department evaluates requests requiring prior authorization on a case-by-case basis to determine whether they are medically necessary, according to the process found in WAC 388-501-0165.

(4) The department evaluates a request for a service that is in a covered category, but has been determined to be experimental or investigational per WAC 388-531-0550, under the provisions of WAC 388-501-0165.

(5) The department terminates a provider's participation with the department according to chapter 388-502 WAC.

[WSR 11-14-075, recodified as § 182-554-100, filed 6/30/11, effective 7/1/11. Statutory Authority: 2009 c 564 § 1109, RCW 74.04.050, and 74.08.090. WSR 10-01-138, § 388-554-100, filed 12/21/09, effective 1/21/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.08.090, 74.09.530 and chapter 74.09 RCW. WSR 05-04-059, § 388-554-100, filed 1/28/05, effective 3/1/05.]

WAC 182-554-200 Enteral nutrition—Definitions.

The following terms and definitions and those found in WAC 388-500-0005 apply to this chapter:

"BMI" see **"body mass index."**

"Body mass index (BMI)" - A number that shows body weight relative to height, and is calculated using inches and pounds or meters and kilograms.

"Department" - The department of social and health services (DSHS).

"Enteral nutrition" - The use of medically necessary nutritional products alone, or in combination with traditional food, when a client is unable to consume enough traditional food to meet nutritional requirements. Enteral nutritional solutions can be given orally or via feeding tubes.

"Enteral nutrition equipment" - Durable medical feeding pumps and intravenous (IV) poles used in conjunction with nutrition supplies to dispense formula to a client.

"Enteral nutrition product" - Enteral nutrition formulas and/or products.

"Enteral nutrition supplies" - The supplies, such as nasogastric, gastrostomy and jejunostomy tubes, necessary to allow nutritional support via the alimentary canal or any route connected to the gastrointestinal system.

"Growth chart" - A series of percentile curves that illustrate the distribution of select body measurements (i.e., height, weight, and age) in children published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. CDC growth charts: United States. <http://www.cdc.gov/growthcharts/>

"Nonfunctioning digestive tract" - Caused by a condition that affects the body's alimentary organs and their ability to break down, digest, and absorb nutrients.

"Orally administered enteral nutrition products" - Enteral nutrition solutions and products that a client consumes orally for nutritional support.

"Tube-delivery" - The provision of nutritional requirements through a tube into the stomach or small intestine.

"Women, infants and children (WIC) program" (Also known as WIC program)—A special supplemental nutrition program managed by the department of health (DOH) that serves to safeguard the health of children up to age five and low-income pregnant and breastfeeding women who are at nutritional risk, by providing them with healthy, nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, and referral to health care.

[WSR 11-14-075, recodified as § 182-554-200, filed 6/30/11, effective 7/1/11. Statutory Authority: 2009 c 564 § 1109, RCW 74.04.050, and 74.08.090. WSR 10-01-138, § 388-554-200, filed 12/21/09, effective 1/21/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.08.090, 74.09.530 and chapter 74.09 RCW. WSR 05-04-059, § 388-554-200, filed 1/28/05, effective 3/1/05.]

WAC 182-554-300 Enteral nutrition—Client eligibility. (1)

To receive oral or tube-delivered enteral nutrition products, equipment, and related supplies, clients must be eligible for one of the following medical assistance programs:

- (a) Categorically needy program (CN or CNP);

(b) Categorically needy program - State children's health insurance program (CNP-SCHIP);

(c) Children's health care programs as defined in WAC 388-505-0210;

(d) Limited casualty program - Medically needy program (LCP-MNP);

(e) General assistance (GAU/ADATSA); and

(f) Emergency medical only programs when the services are necessary to treat the client's emergency medical condition.

(2) Clients who are enrolled in a department-contracted managed care organization (MCO) must arrange for enteral nutrition products, equipment, and related supplies directly through his or her department-contracted MCO.

(3) For clients who reside in a nursing facility, adult family home, assisted living facility, boarding home, or any other residence where the provision of food is included in the daily rate, oral enteral nutrition products are the responsibility of the facility to provide in accordance with chapters 388-76, 388-97 and 388-78A WAC.

(4) For clients who reside in a state-owned facility (i.e. state school, developmental disabilities (DD) facility, mental health facility, Western State Hospital, and Eastern State Hospital) enteral nutrition products, equipment, and related supplies are the responsibility of the state-owned facility to provide.

(5) Clients who have elected and are eligible to receive the department's hospice benefit must arrange for enteral nutrition products, equipment and related supplies directly through the hospice benefit.

(6) Children who qualify for supplemental nutrition from the women, infants, and children (WIC) program must receive supplemental nutrition directly from that program unless the client meets the limited circumstances in WAC 388-554-500 (1)(d).

[WSR 11-14-075, recodified as § 182-554-300, filed 6/30/11, effective 7/1/11. Statutory Authority: 2009 c 564 § 1109, RCW 74.04.050, and 74.08.090. WSR 10-01-138, § 388-554-300, filed 12/21/09, effective 1/21/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.08.090, 74.09.530 and chapter 74.09 RCW. WSR 05-04-059, § 388-554-300, filed 1/28/05, effective 3/1/05.]

WAC 182-554-400 Enteral nutrition—Provider requirements. (1) The following providers are eligible to enroll/contract with the department to provide orally administered enteral nutrition products and tube-delivered enteral nutrition products, equipment, and related supplies:

(a) Pharmacy provider; or

(b) Durable medical equipment (DME) provider.

(2) To receive payment for orally administered enteral nutrition products and tube-delivered enteral nutrition products, equipment and related supplies, a provider must:

(a) Meet the requirements in chapters 388-501 and 388-502 WAC;

(b) Provide only those services that are within the scope of the provider's license;

(c) Obtain prior authorization from the department, if required, before delivery to the client and before billing the department;

(d) Deliver enteral nutritional products in quantities sufficient to meet the client's authorized needs, not to exceed a one-month supply;

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(e) Confirm with the client or the client's caregiver that the next month's delivery of authorized orally administered enteral nutrition products is necessary and document the confirmation in the client's file. The department does not pay for automatic periodic delivery of products;

(f) Furnish clients with new or used equipment that includes full manufacturer and dealer warranties for at least one year; and

(g) Notify the client's physician if the client has indicated the enteral nutrition product is not being used as prescribed and document the notification in the client's file.

[WSR 11-14-075, recodified as § 182-554-400, filed 6/30/11, effective 7/1/11. Statutory Authority: 2009 c 564 § 1109, RCW 74.04.050, and 74.08.090. WSR 10-01-138, § 388-554-400, filed 12/21/09, effective 1/21/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.08.090, 74.09.530 and chapter 74.09 RCW. WSR 05-04-059, § 388-554-400, filed 1/28/05, effective 3/1/05.]

WAC 182-554-500 Covered enteral nutrition products, equipment and related supplies—Orally administered—Clients twenty years of age and younger only. (1) The department covers orally administered enteral nutrition products for clients twenty years of age and younger only, as follows:

(a) The client's nutritional needs cannot be met using traditional foods, baby foods, and other regular grocery products that can be pulverized or blenderized and used to meet the client's caloric and nutritional needs;

(b) The client is able to manage their feedings in one of the following ways:

(i) Independently; or

(ii) With a caregiver who can manage the feedings; and

(c) The client meets one of the following clinical criteria:

(i) Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). Providers must obtain prior authorization to receive payment. The client must:

(A) Be in a wasting state;

(B) Have a weight-for-length less than or equal to the fifth percentile if the client is three years of age or younger; or

(C) Have a body mass index (BMI) of:

(I) Less than or equal to the fifth percentile if the client is four through seventeen years of age; or

(II) Less than or equal to 18.5 if the client is eighteen through twenty years of age; or

(D) Have a BMI of:

(I) Less than or equal to twenty-five; and

(II) An unintentional or unexplained weight loss of five percent in one month, seven and a half percent in three months, or ten percent in six months.

(ii) Amino acid, fatty acid, and carbohydrate metabolic disorders.

(A) The client must require a specialized nutrition product; and

(B) Providers must follow the department's expedited prior authorization process to receive payment.

(iii) Cancer(s).

(A) The client must be receiving chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy or post-therapy treatment;

(B) The department pays for orally administered nutritional products for up to three months following the completion of chemotherapy or radiation therapy; and

(6/30/11)

(C) Providers must follow the department's expedited prior authorization process to receive payment.

(iv) Chronic renal failure.

(A) The client must be receiving dialysis and have a fluid restrictive diet in order to use nutrition bars; and

(B) Providers must follow the department's expedited prior authorization process to receive payment.

(v) Decubitus pressure ulcers.

(A) The client must have stage three or greater decubitus pressure ulcers and an albumin level of 3.2 or below; and

(B) Providers must follow the department's expedited prior authorization process to receive a maximum of three month's payment.

(vi) Failure to thrive or malnutrition/malabsorption as a result of a stated primary diagnosed disease.

(A) The provider must obtain prior authorization to receive payment; and

(B) The client must have:

(I) A disease or medical condition that is only organic in nature and not due to cognitive, emotional, or psychological impairment; and

(II) A weight-for-length less than or equal to the fifth percentile if the client is two years of age or younger; or

(III) A BMI of:

(aa) Less than or equal to the fifth percentile if the client is three through seventeen years of age; or

(bb) Less than or equal to 18.5, an albumin level of 3.5 or below, and a cholesterol level of one hundred sixty or below if the client is age eighteen through twenty years of age; or

(IV) Have a BMI of:

(aa) Less than or equal to twenty five; and

(bb) An unintentional or unexplained weight loss of five percent in one month, seven and a half percent in three months, or ten percent in six months.

(vii) Medical conditions (e.g., dysphagia) requiring a thickener.

(A) The client must:

(I) Require a thickener to aid in swallowing or currently be transitioning from tube feedings to oral feedings; and

(II) Be evaluated by a speech therapist or an occupational therapist who specializes in dysphagia. The report recommending a thickener must be in the client's chart in the prescriber's office.

(B) Providers must follow the department's expedited prior authorization process to receive payment.

(d) If four years of age or younger.

(i) The client must:

(A) Have a certified registered dietitian (RD) evaluation with recommendations which support the prescriber's order for oral enteral nutrition products or formulas; and

(B) Have a signed and dated written notification from WIC indicating one of the following:

(I) Client is not eligible for the women, infants, and children (WIC) program; or

(II) Client is eligible for WIC program, but the need for the oral enteral nutrition product or formula exceeds WIC's allowed amount; or

(III) The requested oral enteral nutrition product or formula is not available through the WIC program. Specific, detailed documentation of the tried and failed efforts of simi-

lar WIC products, or the medical need for alternative products must be in the prescriber's chart for the client; and

(C) Meet one of the following clinical criteria:

(I) Low birth weight (less than 2500 grams);

(II) A decrease across two or more percentile lines on the CDC growth chart, once a stable growth pattern has been established;

(III) Failure to gain weight on two successive measurements, despite dietary interventions; or

(IV) Documented specific, clinical factors that place the child at risk for a compromised nutrition and/or health status.

(ii) Providers must follow the department's expedited prior authorization process to receive payment.

(e) If five years of age through twenty years of age.

(i) The client must:

(A) Have a certified RD evaluation, for eligible clients, with recommendations which support the prescriber's order for oral enteral nutrition products; and

(B) Meet one of the following clinical criteria:

(I) A decrease across two or more percentile lines on the CDC growth chart, once a stable growth pattern has been established;

(II) Failure to gain weight on two successive measurements, despite dietary interventions; or

(III) Documented specific, clinical factors that place the child at risk for a compromised nutrition and/or health status.

(ii) Providers must follow the department's expedited prior authorization process to receive payment.

(2) Requests to the department for prior authorization for orally administered enteral nutrition products must include a completed Oral Enteral Nutrition Worksheet Prior Authorization Request (DSHS 13-743), available for download at: <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/msa/forms/eforms.html>. The DSHS 13-743 form must be:

(a) Completed by the prescribing physician, advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP), or physician assistant-certified (PA-C), verifying all of the following:

(i) The client meets the requirements listed in this section;

(ii) The client's physical limitations and expected outcome;

(iii) The client's current clinical nutritional status, including the relationship between the client's diagnosis and nutritional need;

(iv) For a client eighteen through twenty years of age, the client's recent weight loss history and a comparison of the client's actual weight to ideal body weight and current body mass index (BMI);

(v) For a client younger than eighteen years of age, the client's growth history and a comparison to expected weight gain, and:

(A) An evaluation of the weight-for-length percentile if the client is three years of age or younger; or

(B) An evaluation of the BMI if the client is four through seventeen years of age.

(vi) The client's medical condition and the exact daily caloric amount of needed enteral nutrition product;

(vii) The reason why the client is unable to consume enough traditional food to meet nutritional requirements;

(viii) The medical reason the specific enteral nutrition product, equipment, and/or supply is prescribed;

(ix) Documentation explaining why less costly, equally effective products or traditional foods are not appropriate;

(x) The number of days or months the enteral nutrition products, equipment, and/or necessary supplies are required; and

(xi) The client's likely expected outcome if enteral nutritional support is not provided.

(b) Written, signed (including the prescriber's credentials), and dated by the prescriber on the same day and before delivery of the enteral nutrition product, equipment, or related supply. This form must not be back-dated; and

(c) Be submitted within three months from the date the prescriber signs the prescription.

(3) Clients twenty years of age and younger must be evaluated by a certified RD within thirty days of initiation of enteral nutrition products and periodically (at the discretion of the certified RD) while receiving enteral nutrition products. The certified RD must be a current provider with the department.

[WSR 11-14-075, recodified as § 182-554-500, filed 6/30/11, effective 7/1/11. Statutory Authority: 2009 c 564 § 1109, RCW 74.04.050, and 74.08.090. WSR 10-01-138, § 388-554-500, filed 12/21/09, effective 1/21/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.08.090, 74.09.530, and 74.09.700. WSR 06-24-036, § 388-554-500, filed 11/30/06, effective 1/1/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.08.090, 74.09.530 and chapter 74.09 RCW. WSR 05-04-059, § 388-554-500, filed 1/28/05, effective 3/1/05.]

WAC 182-554-600 Covered enteral nutrition products, equipment and related supplies—Tube-delivered.

(1) The department covers tube-delivered enteral nutrition products, equipment, and related supplies, without prior authorization, for eligible clients regardless of age, as follows:

(a) When the client meets the following clinical criteria:

(i) The client has a valid prescription;

(A) To be valid, a prescription must:

(I) Be written by a physician, advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP), or physician's assistant certified (PA-C);

(II) Be written, signed (including the prescriber's credentials), and dated by the prescriber on the same day and before delivery of the supply, equipment, or device. Prescriptions must not be back-dated;

(III) Be submitted within three months from the date the prescriber signs the prescription; and

(IV) State the specific product requested, diagnosis, estimated length of need (months), and quantity.

(ii) The client is able to manage his or her tube feedings in one of the following ways:

(A) Independently; or

(B) With a caregiver who can manage the feedings; and

(iii) The client has at least one of the following medical conditions:

(A) A nonfunction or disease or clinical condition that impairs the client's ability to ingest sufficient calories and nutrients from products orally or does not permit sufficient calories and nutrients from food to reach the gastrointestinal tract; or

(B) A disease or condition of the small bowel that impairs digestion and absorption of an oral diet, either of which requires tube feedings to provide sufficient nutrients to

maintain weight and strength that is properly proportioned to the client's overall health status.

(b) With the following limitations:

(i) One purchased pump, per client, in a five-year period; and

(ii) One purchased nondisposable intravenous pole required for enteral nutrition product delivery, per client, per lifetime.

(c) Providers must follow the department's expedited prior authorization process to receive payment.

(2) The department pays for up to twelve months of rental payments for tube-delivered enteral nutrition equipment. After twelve months of rental, the department considers the equipment purchased and it becomes the client's property.

(3) The department pays for replacement parts for tube-delivered enteral nutrition equipment, with prior authorization, when:

(a) Owned by the client;

(b) Less than five years old; and

(c) No longer under warranty.

[WSR 11-14-075, recodified as § 182-554-600, filed 6/30/11, effective 7/1/11. Statutory Authority: 2009 c 564 § 1109, RCW 74.04.050, and 74.08.090. WSR 10-01-138, § 388-554-600, filed 12/21/09, effective 1/21/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.08.090, 74.09.530, and 74.09.700. WSR 06-24-036, § 388-554-600, filed 11/30/06, effective 1/1/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.08.090, 74.09.530 and chapter 74.09 RCW. WSR 05-04-059, § 388-554-600, filed 1/28/05, effective 3/1/05.]

WAC 182-554-700 Enteral nutrition products, equipment and related supplies—Authorization.

(1) The department requires providers to obtain authorization for covered orally administered enteral nutrition products, and tube-delivered enteral equipment and related supplies as required in this chapter and in published department billing instructions and/or numbered memoranda or when the clinical criteria required in this chapter are not met.

(a) For prior authorization (PA), a provider must submit a written request to the department as specified in WAC 388-554-500(2).

(b) For expedited prior authorization (EPA), a provider must establish that the client's condition meets the clinically appropriate EPA criteria outlined in this chapter and in the department's published enteral nutrition billing instructions. The appropriate EPA number must be used when the provider bills the department.

(c) Upon request, a provider must provide documentation to the department showing how the client's condition met the criteria for PA or EPA.

(2) Authorization requirements in this chapter are not a denial of service for the client.

(3) When an oral enteral nutrition product or tube-delivered enteral nutrition equipment or related supply requires authorization, the provider must properly request authorization in accordance with the department's rules, billing instructions, and numbered memoranda.

(4) When authorization is not properly requested, the department rejects and returns the request to the provider for further action. The department does not consider the rejection of the request to be a denial of service.

(5) The department's authorization does not necessarily guarantee payment.

(6) The department evaluates requests for authorization for covered enteral nutrition products, equipment, and related supplies that exceed limitations in this chapter on a case-by-case basis in accordance with WAC 388-501-0169.

(7) The department may recoup any payment made to a provider if the department later determines that the service was not properly authorized or did not meet the EPA criteria. Refer to WAC 388-502-0100 (1)(c).

(8) If a fee-for-service client enrolls in a department-contracted MCO before the department completes the purchase or rental of prescribed enteral nutrition products, necessary equipment and supplies:

(a) The department rescinds the authorization of the purchase or rental;

(b) The department stops paying for any equipment on the last day of the month preceding the month in which the client becomes enrolled in the managed care plan; and

(c) The department-contracted MCO determines the client's continuing need for the equipment and is then responsible for the client.

(9) The department rescinds any authorization for prescribed equipment if the equipment was not delivered to the client before the client:

(a) Loses medical eligibility;

(b) Becomes covered by a hospice agency and the equipment is used in the treatment of the terminal diagnosis or related condition(s);

(c) Becomes eligible for a department-contracted managed care plan; or

(d) Dies.

[WSR 11-14-075, recodified as § 182-554-700, filed 6/30/11, effective 7/1/11. Statutory Authority: 2009 c 564 § 1109, RCW 74.04.050, and 74.08.090. WSR 10-01-138, § 388-554-700, filed 12/21/09, effective 1/21/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.08.090, 74.09.530 and chapter 74.09 RCW. WSR 05-04-059, § 388-554-700, filed 1/28/05, effective 3/1/05.]

WAC 182-554-800 Noncovered—Enteral nutrition products, equipment, and related supplies. (1) The department does not cover the following:

(a) Nonmedical equipment, supplies, and related services, including but not limited to, back-packs, pouches, bags, baskets, or other carrying containers; and

(b) Orally administered enteral nutrition products for clients twenty-one years of age and older.

(2) An exception to rule (ETR), as described in WAC 388-501-0160, may be requested for a noncovered service.

(3) When EPSDT applies, the department evaluates a noncovered service, equipment, or supply according to the process in WAC 388-501-0165 to determine if it is medically necessary, safe, effective, and not experimental (see WAC 388-534-0100 for EPSDT rules).

[WSR 11-14-075, recodified as § 182-554-800, filed 6/30/11, effective 7/1/11. Statutory Authority: 2009 c 564 § 1109, RCW 74.04.050, and 74.08.090. WSR 10-01-138, § 388-554-800, filed 12/21/09, effective 1/21/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.08.090, 74.09.530 and chapter 74.09 RCW. WSR 05-04-059, § 388-554-800, filed 1/28/05, effective 3/1/05.]

WAC 182-554-900 Reimbursement—Enteral nutrition products, equipment, and related supplies. (1) The department:

(a) Determines reimbursement for enteral nutrition products, equipment, and related-supplies according to a set fee schedule;

(b) Considers medicare's current fee schedule when determining maximum allowable fees;

(c) Considers vendor rate increases or decreases as directed by the legislature; and

(d) Evaluates and updates the maximum allowable fees for enteral nutrition products, equipment, and related supplies at least once per year.

(2) The department's payment for covered enteral nutrition products, equipment and related supplies includes all of the following:

(a) Any adjustments or modifications to the equipment required within three months of the date of delivery. This does not apply to adjustments required because of changes in the client's medical condition;

(b) Instructions to the client and/or caregiver on the safe and proper use of equipment provided;

(c) Full service warranty;

(d) Delivery and pick-up; and

(e) Fitting and adjustments.

(3) If changes in circumstance occur during the rental period, such as death or ineligibility, the department discontinues payment effective on the date of the change in circumstance.

(4) The department does not pay for simultaneous rental and a purchase of any item.

(5) The department does not reimburse providers for equipment that is supplied to them at no cost through suppliers/manufacturers.

(6) The provider who furnishes enteral nutrition equipment to a client is responsible for any costs incurred to have another provider repair equipment if all of the following apply:

(a) Any equipment that the department considers purchased requires repair during the applicable warranty period;

(b) The provider refuses or is unable to fulfill the warranty; and

(c) The client still needs the equipment.

(7) If the rental equipment must be replaced during the warranty period, the department recoups fifty percent of the total amount previously paid toward rental and eventual purchase of the equipment delivered to the client if:

(a) The provider is unwilling or unable to fulfill the warranty; and

(b) The client still needs the equipment.

[WSR 11-14-075, recodified as § 182-554-900, filed 6/30/11, effective 7/1/11. Statutory Authority: 2009 c 564 § 1109, RCW 74.04.050, and 74.08.090. WSR 10-01-138, § 388-554-900, filed 12/21/09, effective 1/21/10.]