

Practical Tools to Support Insurance Coverage for Patients on Peptide-Based Formulas

Peptide-based formulas are essential for patients with gastrointestinal dysfunction, malabsorption or poor tolerance to standard polymeric formulas. Emerging evidence shows that these formulas can improve clinical outcomes and reduce overall healthcare utilization and costs.¹ However, access is often limited by coverage barriers, formulary restrictions, and variable payer policies.

Understanding how to navigate these complexities helps you advocate for your patients, so they get the critical nutrition they need.

PRACTICAL TIPS TO IMPROVE REIMBURSEMENT SUCCESS



Collaborate Early with Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Providers **1**

Engaging DME providers early and often can reduce delays and denials, making the reimbursement process smoother for patients. These providers cannot create or supply qualifying medical documentation for peptide-based enteral formulas. However, they do have visibility into payer-specific coverage guidelines, including which diagnoses, clinical findings, tests or timelines may be required for an approval.

2 Use Clear, Consistent Documentation to Demonstrate Medical Necessity

Why this matters: Conflicting language across medical notes and orders is a common cause of coverage denials, and a diagnosis alone never justifies specialty formulas. Remember to specify the underlying clinical rationale and explain why a peptide-based formula is medically necessary. *See examples below.*

Less effective language²

"Patient requires peptide-based formula due to GI diagnosis." Or: "Advance oral diet as tolerated." The latter suggests that enteral nutrition is temporary or unnecessary and can trigger denials. Ensure documentation is clinically precise when describing relevant symptoms or intolerance to oral intake/standard formulas.

More effective language²

"Patient is unable to meet nutrition needs with a standard-polymeric formula due to impaired digestion and absorption and requires a peptide-based formula as the sole source of nutrition." Or: "Standard polymeric formulas were trialed and resulted in persistent intolerance, including diarrhea, hyperglycemia, and weight loss. A peptide-based formula is medically necessary to support adequate weight gain, nutrient absorption, and tolerance."

1. Elfadil OM, Shah RN, Hurt RT, Mundi MS. **Peptide-based formula: Clinical applications and benefits.** *Nutrition in Clinical Practice.* 2023;38(2):318–328.

2. This language is provided for illustrative purposes and is not a substitute for independent clinical judgement.

3 Document as though Medicare were the Payer

Medicare is widely considered the benchmark for enteral nutrition coverage, and many state Medicaid and commercial plans closely align with its criteria. By consistently documenting with Medicare requirements in mind, clinicians are well positioned to meet the coverage expectations of other payers.

4 Use Time-Saving Coverage Resources

The Nestlé Health Science Medical Hub offers a suite of tools designed to help dietitians support patient access to appropriate nutrition formulas across care settings.



NESTLÉ HEALTH SCIENCE REIMBURSEMENT & COVERAGE RESOURCES

✓ **formula4success® Program:**

Access step-by-step guidance, tools, and personalized support to help navigate access and coverage for Nestlé Health Science formulas. Participants benefit from dedicated, hands-on specialists who assist with challenging coverage situations, including insurance benefit investigations and verification, prior authorization assistance, product supply coordination, and comprehensive claim submission and appeal support.

✓ **WIC and Medicaid Coverage Map:**

Understand which Nestlé Health Science pediatric formulas are available for your patients through WIC and Medicaid, and seamlessly access forms required for coverage.

✓ **Enteral Nutrition Coverage Guide:**

Confirm product codes and review documentation requirements for specific products that may require additional documentation for reimbursement.

✓ **Code and Reimbursement Information:**

Reference key reimbursement information for all Nestlé Health Science products, including HCPCS code, NDC Number, calorie information and more.

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Use under medical supervision.

All formula substitutions must be based on clinical judgment. Alternatives may not be nutritionally comparable or equivalent in all respects.

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