**Letter of Medical Necessity**

**COMPLEAT® ORGANIC BLENDS**

*Date*

TO: *Insurance Company*

FROM: *Insert Physicians Name*

**SUBJECT: Request for coverage/ reimbursement for COMPLEAT® ORGANIC BLENDS nutritionally complete, commercially- manufactured, tube feeding formula.**

I am requesting insurance coverage and reimbursement on behalf of my patient,  *Name/Date of Birth****.***I have prescribed **COMPLEAT® ORGANIC BLENDS**tube feeding formula, manufactured by Nestlé Health Science for the nutritional management of *Diagnosis or Condition,* as documented in the patient’s medical record*(Dates).* Please refer to the attached **Criteria for Tube Feeding** **Formula** form, which provides specific justification for this formula.

*Verify medical necessity for formula, including: diagnosis, documented failure or intolerance to other formulas, current HT/WT/IBW, history of wt loss, pertinent lab results, medications, potential outcome if formula were denied.*

COMPLEAT® ORGANIC BLENDS tube feeding formula is intended for use under the supervision of a medical professional. COMPLEAT® ORGANIC BLENDS tube feeding formula is nutritionally complete enteral formulas for adults who will benefit from a sole source tube feeding formula made with real foods. This tube-feeding formula is intended for the nutritional management of those with a variety of feeding issues and intolerance that are not resolved on standard tube feeding formulas.

COMPLEAT® ORGANIC BLENDS does **not** contain any dairy (milk), soy, or corn ingredients, which supports the nutritional requirements of patients who need to avoid these ingredients. It is also lactose-free and gluten-free. The protein sources provide all the indispensable (essential) amino acids the body requires and fiber sources to help support digestive health and bowel management.

The use of nutritionally complete, sole source, tube-feeding formulas formulated with real foods has been shown to be beneficial for a number of medical conditions or feeding problems that are often associated with intolerance to standard tube feeding formulas:

* GI issues associated with neurologic impairment and/or developmental disabilities in adults[[1]](#endnote-1)
* Chronic constipation[[2]](#endnote-2)
* Reflux, gagging, or retching[[3]](#endnote-3)
* Volume intolerance[[4]](#endnote-4)
* Inability/difficulty transitioning to oral feedings[[5]](#endnote-5)

A denial of coverage for this commercially manufactured tube feeding formula may result in patients, parents, and caregivers attempting to prepare their own homemade blenderized formula. This can lead to formulas that are nutritionally inadequate, inconsistent in nutrient content, inappropriate consistency for administration though the feeding tube (resulting in feeding tube occlusion and the need for medical intervention to replace the tube), or unsanitary due to contamination.[[6]](#endnote-6) Improper handling and storage of foods may increase the risk for bacterial contamination and food borne illness, which can lead to GI upset, severe diarrhea, dehydration, electrolyte imbalance, and the possible need for medical treatment.[[7]](#endnote-7),[[8]](#endnote-8)

For the reasons mentioned above, COMPLEAT® ORGANIC BLENDS tube feeding formula is not synonymous with a homemade blended diet made with conventional food. COMPLEAT® ORGANIC BLENDS tube feeding formula are specifically formulated to provide the daily recommended quantities of 25 key vitamins and minerals, which is critical for those who receive these formulas as a sole source of nutrition via a feeding tube. COMPLEAT® ORGANIC BLENDS meets the Dietary Reference Intake (DRI) for adults for 25 vitamins and minerals in 1200 mL.

COMPLEAT® ORGANIC BLENDS tube feeding formula may be a safer and nutritionally consistent alternative to homemade blenderized diets, because it is nutritionally-complete, commercially-manufactured, commercially-sterilized, and shelf-stable. This formula is manufactured in an FDA-registered facility in which quality standards are enforced and analytical testing is done to assure that the nutrient content is within specifications according to the nutrition information declared on the label.

COMPLEAT® ORGANIC BLENDS is currently recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in **HCPCS Category B4149:** *an enteral formula, blenderized natural foods with intact nutrients, includes proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, may include fiber, administered through an enteral feeding tube.*

Based on the explanation provided, my clinical judgement, and my determination that this formula is required for the care of my patient, I am requesting coverage for COMPLEAT® ORGANIC BLENDS.

Thank you for taking the time to review this request. Please contact me if you require any additional information. If additional formula information is required, please refer to [www.MyCompleatOrganicBlends.com](http://www.MyCompleatOrganicBlends.com) or [www.NestleHealthScience.us](http://www.NestleHealthScience.us).

Sincerely,

Signature:

Name:

Title:

1. Bobo E. Reemergence of blenderized tube feeding: exploring the evidence. *Nutr Clin Prac.2016;31:730-735.* [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Hurt R, et al. Blenderized tube feeding use in adult home enteral nutrition patients: a cross sectional study. *Nutr Clin Prac. 2015;30:824-829.* [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Pentiuk SP, et al. Pureed by gastrostomy tube diet improves gagging and retching in children with fundoplication. *JPEN*. 2011;35:375-379. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Novak P, et al: The use of blenderized tube feedings. ICAN: Infant, Child, & Adolescent Nutrition 2009;1:21-23. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Johnson T, et al. Blenderized formula by gastrostomy tube: a case presentation and review of literature. *Top Clin Nutr. 2*013;28:84-92. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Walia C, et al. The registered dietitian nutritionist’s guide to homemade tube feeding. *J Acad Nutr Diet.* 2016;117:11-16. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. Campbell SM. An anthology of advances in enteral tube feeding formulations. *Nutr Clin Prac.* 2006;21:411-415. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. Borghi R, et al. ILSI task force on enteral nutrition; estimated composition and costs of blenderized diets. *Nutr Hosp.* 2013;28 (6):2033-2038. [↑](#endnote-ref-8)