



QUICK GUIDE TO STANDARDS OF CARE FOR CHRONIC DISEASE SCREENING

Initiate Timely Referrals to Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) To Slow the Progression of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and Diabetes

Considerations for Referring Patients to RDN for Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) Services for Diabetes and CKD Care

- Upon initial diagnosis
- When the hemoglobin A1c trend is worsening
- Upon changes in treatment and medication regimen (Example: conversion from oral to non-insulin injectable or insulin and changes in insulin regimen)
- If there is a development or progression of hypertension
- For management of congestive heart failure and dyslipidemia
- With the presence of an eating disorder
- Upon the new onset of chronic disease complications and signs/symptoms of disease progression

Medicare Coverage and When to Refer to MNT Services

- **Medicare Advantage plans** must cover MNT services for diabetes and renal disease because MNT is a Part B benefit.
- Basic coverage of MNT for the first year a beneficiary receives MNT with either a diagnosis of renal disease or diabetes is three hours. MNT services in subsequent years for renal disease or diabetes include two (2) hours.
- Patients can be referred to individual or group MNT sessions (groups must include 2 or more people).
- Provide a second referral to MNT in the same year for change in diagnosis, medical condition or treatment regimen, including additional hours needed for renal disease.
- Patients can be referred for additional MNT services beyond the three hours in the initial calendar year and two follow-up hours in subsequent years that are typically covered by Medicare when a physician determines there is a change of diagnosis or medical condition that makes a change in diet necessary and provides a new MNT referral.

Payable MNT

- **97802** – Medical nutrition therapy; initial assessment and intervention, individual, face-to-face with the patient, each is 15 minutes. This code is used only once for the initial assessment of a new patient.
- **97803** - Reassessment and intervention, individual, face-to-face with the patient, each is 15 minutes. This code should also be used when there is a change in the patient's medical condition that affects the nutritional status of the patient.
- **97804** – Group MNT counseling (two or more individuals), each is 30 minutes. This code can also be used when there is a change in a patient's condition that affects the nutritional status of the patient, and the patient is attending in a group.

Payable Codes for MNT when there is a Change in a Beneficiaries' Condition

- **G0270** - Medical Nutrition Therapy; reassessment and subsequent intervention(s) following second referral in the same year for change in diagnosis, medical condition, or treatment regimen (including additional hours needed for renal disease), individual, face-to-face with the patient, each is 15 minutes.
- **G0271** - Medical Nutrition Therapy; reassessment and subsequent intervention(s) following second referral in the same year for change in diagnosis, medical condition or treatment regimen (including additional hours needed for renal disease) group (2 or more individuals), each is 30 minutes.

Telehealth Options for Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) Services

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics confirms that registered dietitian nutritionists and nutrition professionals are approved to offer the following Medicare Part B services via telehealth:

- Medical nutrition therapy, individual and group (CPT: 97802,97803, 97804)
- Diabetes self-management training, individual and group (G0108, G0109)
- Intensive behavioral therapy for cardiovascular disease (G0446: must be billed by the primary care provider)
- Behavioral counseling for obesity, individual (G0447: must be billed by the primary care provider)
- Annual wellness visit (G0438, G0439 must be billed by the primary care provider)

RDN Medicare providers may use the following G codes with their Medicare Part B beneficiaries after an initial MNT encounter:

- **G2061:** Qualified nonphysician healthcare professional online assessment and management, for an established patient, for up to seven days, cumulative time during the seven days; 5-10 minutes
- **G2062:** Qualified nonphysician healthcare professional online assessment and management service, for an established patient, for up to seven days, cumulative time during the days; 11-20 minutes)
- **G2063:** Qualified nonphysician healthcare professional online assessment and management service, for an established patient, for up to seven days, cumulative time during the 7 days; 21 or more minutes

Additional information about coverage for telehealth, medical nutrition therapy, and other Medicare Part B services provided by RDNs here: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/practice/practice-resources/telehealth/medicare-telehealth-services-and-registered-dietitians>

Find a RDN near you: <https://www.eatright.org/find-a-nutrition-expert>

References:

1. Medical Nutrition Therapy Benefit for Diabetes & ESRD: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/hcacal-decision-memo.aspx?proposed=N&NCAId=53>
2. Tip Sheet: Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT): <https://www.ncoa.org/article/medical-nutrition-therapy-mnt-tip-sheet>