

Enteral Nutrition
Prior Authorization Criteria

Enteral nutrition is used as a nutritional replacement for patients who are unable to get enough nutrients in their diet. These formulas are taken by mouth or through a feeding tube and are used by the body for energy and to form substances needed for normal body functions.

DOM covers enteral nutrition when the following criteria are met:

1. For beneficiaries over the age of 21, the requested enteral nutritional must be the sole source of nutrition.
2. For beneficiaries under the age of 21, specialized feeding must constitute more than 50% of the nutritional needs. A qualifying diagnosis is required.
3. The unique composition of the formula must contain nutrients the beneficiary is unable to obtain from food.
4. The composition of the formula must represent an integral part of the treatment of the specified diagnosis and/or condition.
5. It must be documented that the beneficiary is unable to tolerate nutrients orally to sufficiently maintain life. The beneficiary is either unable to take oral nutrition or unable to tolerate oral intake. Documentation to support coverage of enteral nutrition must be maintained in the beneficiary's medical record. Documentation must include the following:
 - a. specific diagnosis related to the beneficiary's inability to take or eat regular food
 - b. For oral feedings, list alternatives that have been tried. For beneficiaries 21 and over, also list laboratory values for albumin or total protein.
 - c. amount needed per day
 - d. duration of treatment
 - e. height, current weight, and recent weight loss
 - f. specific prescription identifying levels of individual nutrients that are required in increased or restricted amounts

Approval may be granted for up to 6 months.

A prior authorization for enteral nutrition is for the nutritional product only and does not include supplies necessary to administer the nutrient.

Please note that Medicaid must be billed first if the beneficiary is dually-eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. Enteral nutritional replacements are not covered for residents in a long-term care facility, i.e. nursing home, ICF MR, etc, as these are included in the facilities' per diem rate.