

Questions to ask your Medicare Service Representative

Nutrition Counseling/Medical Nutrition Therapy with a Specialist (dietitian)

These questions are provided as a courtesy to help you determine if nutrition counseling may be covered by your insurance provider. Having these questions addressed by your insurance provider's member services does not guarantee coverage.

Medicare and Medicare Replacement plans (aka Advantage plans) only cover three diagnoses: Diabetes, Kidney Disease stages 1,2 and 3 or a kidney transplant in the last 36 months. If you do not have one of these conditions, insurance will not cover nutrition counseling. In addition, you are **required to obtain a doctor's order prior to your appointment**. Check the second page for more information on that process.

In Person Appointments

Does my insurance plan cover nutrition counseling/medical nutritional therapy? ☐ Yes ☐ No

You may need to provide the following information.

- 97802 - Procedure code for an in-person initial nutrition counseling appointment
- 97803 - Procedure code for an in-person follow-up nutrition counseling appointment

Virtual or Video Visit Appointments

Does my insurance cover virtual visit appointments? ☐ Yes ☐ No

- 97802-(95) - Procedure code for a virtual visit initial nutrition counseling appointment
- 97803-(95) - Procedure code for a virtual visit follow-up nutrition counseling appointment
[95 indicates virtual visit]

Does my insurance plan cover virtual visits, if I live in a state other than Minnesota? ☐ Yes ☐ No

- Some policies/plans required that the client and nutritionist live in the same state.
- Be sure to tell the service representative.
 - Nutritional Weight and Wellness, Inc. is in the state of Minnesota
 - I live in the state of _____

All Appointments

Are Dietitians at Nutritional Weight & Wellness, Inc. In-Network with my plan? ☐ Yes ☐ No

You may need to provide the following information

- 1700024890 - NPI (National Provider Identifier) for Nutritional Weight and Wellness, Inc.
- 41-1998969 - Tax ID for Nutritional Weight and Wellness, Inc

Do I have a deductible to meet first? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how much? _____

- You may e-mail our Insurance Coordinator, insurance@weightandwellness.com to find out if your plan has preventive services for Nutrition Therapy. Preventive services typically have no out of pocket expenses.

Will my plan cover nutrition counseling for (your health conditions)?

List the health conditions that you want to address at a Nutritional Weight & Wellness, Inc. appointment:

_____ ☐ Yes ☐ No

_____ ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do I have a co-pay or co-insurance to see a specialist? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how much? _____

Do I have a limited number of visits? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how many visits can I have per benefit year? _____

The service representative will give you a reference number Ref. # _____

We strongly suggest you record the date, time and name of the representative you spoke with and keep a copy of this information for your records.

Medicare

Medicare and Medicare Replacement plans (aka Advantage plans) only cover three diagnoses: Diabetes, Kidney Disease stages 1,2 and 3 or a kidney transplant in the last 36 months. If you do not have one of these conditions, Medicare insurance will not cover nutrition counseling.

Medicare also requires a Doctor's Order or sometimes called a Prescription for Service for most visits.

We require that the Doctor's Order is received prior to your first insurance appointment. Please allow enough time before your appointment to gather that information for your doctor.

How to obtain a Doctor's Order

Please call your Medicare Approved primary care clinic/doctor and request a Doctor's Order.

"Doctor's Orders" may also be called a "Prescription for service" – so you may hear that term used as well.

Why do you need this?

All Medicare members seeing a Specialist require a doctor's order. Dietitians and Nutritionists are specialists.

Medicare requires an allowable **medical code**: such as Diabetes, Kidney Disease or Kidney Transplant within 36 months to cover your visit with a dietitian or nutritionist. Dietitians and nutritionists are not able to diagnose clients. We must have a Doctor's Order which includes one of these medical diagnosis codes from a Medicare Approved primary care provider so that we may file a claim with Medicare.

We are a private clinic and our Dietitians, Nutritionists and staff do not have access to your electronic health records where you see your primary care provider.

You will need to request that your clinic send us the required medical diagnosis codes using a Doctor's Order via FAX. (Fax # 651-305-0183)

What needs to be on the Dr's Order?

- Doctor's first and last name
- Doctor's NPI number
- Patient's first and last name
- Patient's address



- Patient's birthdate
- Patient's diagnosis and ICD-10 code

Then What?

Have your clinic **Fax** the Dr's Order to:
Nutritional Weight and Wellness, Inc.

Fax: **651-305-0183**

ATTN: Insurance Department

If it would be helpful, please forward this email to your clinic or print & send it to your doctor.