DME Claims for Enteral-Nutrition Products—Processing Update

MassHealth recently issued Pharmacy Facts #40, which gave general information about prior authorization (PA) and claim submission for durable medical equipment and medical supplies (DME). This edition of Pharmacy Facts will expand on Pharmacy Facts #40 and give an update on the processing of claims for enteral-nutrition formulas. Information concerning this topic was also released in MassHealth DME Bulletin 14: Clarification of Coverage of Formulas (Enteral-Nutrition Products). This bulletin can be found on the MassHealth Web site, www.mass.gov/masshealth. Go to MassHealth Regulations and Other Publications. Click on the link for Provider Library and then for Provider Bulletins.

MassHealth covers medically necessary enteral-nutrition products in accordance with 130 CMR 450.204. These products are covered as a DME benefit and require prior authorization (PA). Pharmacy providers who have been approved by MassHealth to provide DME (referred to here as DME providers), must obtain a signed prescription and written documentation of medical necessity from the member’s physician or nurse practitioner, then submit the documentation along with the prior authorization request in accordance with DME regulations at 130 CMR 409.000. **A DME provider must submit prior authorization requests to MassHealth when presented with a valid prescription and written documentation of medical necessity.**

DME providers should consult Subchapter 6 of the Durable Medical Equipment Manual for information on service codes and descriptions for enteral-nutrition products. DME providers may also find service codes and descriptions in the DME and Oxygen Payment and Coverage Guidelines Tool available on the MassHealth Web site at www.mass.gov/masshealth. Go to MassHealth Regulations and Other Publications, then Provider Library.

For MassHealth members, MassHealth has primary responsibility for enteral-nutrition products not covered by the Department of Public Health (DPH) Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program. In such cases, no proof of WIC eligibility is necessary. In order to obtain enteral-nutrition products that are available through WIC, providers must obtain WIC documentation from the member that states that the member is either WIC eligible or WIC ineligible, and submit it to MassHealth along with the PA request and other supporting documentation.

The WIC program covers the following products as first payer for MassHealth members: Good Start Supreme, Good Start Supreme DHA/ARA, Good Start Supreme Soy DHA/ARA, Enfamil Lipil with Iron, Enfamil Lipil Low Iron, ProSobee Lipil.

Upon receipt of a completed PA request for an enteral-nutrition product that is on the above list, MassHealth will determine that the member is:

1. WIC eligible and will receive enteral-nutrition products sufficient to meet the member’s medical need through WIC (in the absence of a demonstrated need, MassHealth will deny the PA);
2. WIC ineligible (enteral-nutrition products will not be provided by WIC); or
3. WIC eligible, and the PA request is for enteral-nutrition products in excess of the amount that WIC will provide the member. In such cases, the PA request must include WIC documentation and medical documentation from the member’s physician or nurse practitioner to support the request for enteral nutrition beyond the amount provided by WIC.

MassHealth has published Guidelines for Medical Necessity Determination for Enteral Nutrition Products, which can be viewed on MassHealth’s Web site at www.mass.gov/masshealth. Click on Information for Providers, then MassHealth Provider Forms, then Forms Used by Multiple Provider Types. The MassHealth Web site also includes the Medical Necessity Review Form for Enteral Nutrition Products, which providers can download and use when submitting requests for PA. Providers may contact the WIC help line at 1-800-WIC-1007 for coverage information.

Please direct any questions or comments (or to be taken off of this fax distribution) to **Victor Moquin** of ACS at 617-423-9830.