



Administrative Policy

Effective Date2/15/2025

Next Review Date2/15/2026

Coverage Policy Number..... A022

Enteral Formula and Supplies

Table of Contents

Overview 1
 Administrative Policy 1
 Coding Information 2

Related Coverage Resources

[Nutritional Support](#)

PURPOSE

*Administrative Policies are intended to provide further information about the administration of **standard** Cigna benefit plans. In the event of a conflict, a customer’s benefit plan document **always supersedes** the information in an Administrative Policy. Coverage determinations require consideration of 1) the terms of the applicable benefit plan document; 2) any applicable laws/regulations; 3) any relevant collateral source materials including Administrative Policies and; 4) the specific facts of the particular situation. Administrative Policies relate exclusively to the administration of health benefit plans. Administrative Policies are not recommendations for treatment and should never be used as treatment guidelines.*

Overview

Enteral nutrition (e.g., tube feeding) is commonly defined as the provision of nutritional requirements through a tube in the stomach or small intestine. It is a method of providing nutrition directly into the gastrointestinal tract.

Oral nutrition refers to nutrition taken through the mouth.

Enteral nutrition formulas are liquid foods specially formulated for oral consumption or enteral feedings.

Administrative Policy

Coverage for enteral nutritional formula is dependent upon medical benefit plan language and may be governed by state mandates. Enteral nutritional formula benefit plan language differs significantly across plans. Refer to the applicable benefit plan document to determine benefit availability and the terms, conditions and limitations of coverage.

Coverage for oral and/or enteral nutritional formula is specifically excluded from many benefit plans. Equipment or supplies used solely in association with enteral feeding is similarly not covered.

When enteral nutritional formula is excluded from the benefit plan, each of the following oral and enteral nutritional formula, along with related supplies and equipment, are not covered or reimbursable:

- Standardized or specialized infant formula for the following conditions:
 - food allergies
 - multiple protein intolerances
 - lactose intolerances
 - gluten-free formula for gluten-sensitive enteropathy/celiac disease
 - milk allergies
 - sensitivities to intact protein
 - protein or fat maldigestion
 - intolerances to soy formulas or protein hydrolysates
 - prematurity
 - low birthweight
- Baby food
- Grocery items that can be blenderized and used with an enteral feeding system
- High protein powders and mixes
- Lactose-free products; products to aid in lactose digestion
- Low carbohydrate diets
- Normal grocery items
- Oral/enteral formula used to replace fluids and electrolytes
- Oral vitamins and minerals
- Weight-loss foods and formula; products to aid weight loss

Please refer to the Medical Coverage Policy 0136 Nutritional Support for conditions of coverage available under the medical plan.

Coding Information

Notes:

1. This list of codes may not be all-inclusive since the American Medical Association (AMA) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) code updates may occur more frequently than policy updates.
2. Deleted codes and codes which are not effective at the time the service is rendered may not be eligible for reimbursement.

Generally excluded from coverage regardless of indication or use:

HCPCS Codes	Description
B4149	Enteral formula, manufactured blenderized natural foods with intact nutrients, includes proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, may include fiber, administered through an enteral feeding tube, 100 calories = 1 unit
B4150	Enteral formula, nutritionally complete with intact nutrients, includes proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, may include fiber, administered through an enteral feeding tube, 100 calories = 1 unit

HCPCS Codes	Description
B4152	Enteral formula, nutritionally complete, calorically dense (equal to or greater than 1.5 Kcal/ml) with intact nutrients, includes proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, may include fiber, administered through an enteral feeding tube, 100 calories = 1 unit
B4153	Enteral formula, nutritionally complete, hydrolyzed proteins (amino acids and peptide chain), includes fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, may include fiber, administered through an enteral feeding tube, 100 calories = 1 unit
B4158	Enteral formula, for pediatrics, nutritionally complete with intact nutrients, includes proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, may include fiber and/or iron, administered through an enteral feeding tube, 100 calories = 1 unit
B4159	Enteral formula, for pediatrics, nutritionally complete soy based with intact nutrients, includes proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, may include fiber and/or iron, administered through an enteral feeding tube, 100 calories = 1 unit
B4160	Enteral formula, for pediatrics, nutritionally complete calorically dense (equal to or greater than 0.7 Kcal/ml) with intact nutrients, includes proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, may include fiber, administered through an enteral feeding tube, 100 calories = 1 unit
B4161	Enteral formula, for pediatrics, hydrolyzed/amino acids and peptide chain proteins, includes fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, may include fiber, administered through an enteral feeding tube, 100 calories = 1 unit
S9432	Medical foods for noninborn errors of metabolism
S9433	Medical food nutritionally complete, administered orally, providing 100% of nutritional intake

“Cigna Companies” refers to operating subsidiaries of The Cigna Group. All products and services are provided exclusively by or through such operating subsidiaries, including Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company, Connecticut General Life Insurance Company, Evernorth Behavioral Health, Inc., Cigna Health Management, Inc., and HMO or service company subsidiaries of The Cigna Group. © 2025 The Cigna Group.