

# Medical Nutrition Therapy for Nevada Medicaid Recipients

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# Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT)

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"Nutritional diagnostic, therapy, and counseling services for the purpose of disease management which are furnished by a registered dietitian or nutrition professional..."

MNT is a specific application of the Nutrition Care Process in clinical settings that is focused on the management of diseases. MNT involves in-depth individualized nutrition assessment and a duration and frequency of care using the Nutrition Care Process to manage disease.

# Overview

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- Currently 500 licensed RDN's in Nevada, occupying diverse specialties.
- RDN 's not recognized as independent practitioners by Medicaid. Until January 2018, no Nevada Medicaid Fee-for-Service or Managed Care Organization (MCO) reimbursable Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) provided services.
- States with Medicaid MNT reimbursement:
  - Alaska
  - North Carolina
  - North Dakota
  - Ohio
  - Texas
  - Washington State

# Approval

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- **August 2015:** Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) and Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) work group assembled to begin reworking previous draft policy language for Medicaid MNT expansion.
- **September 2015:** Medicaid Coding Guideline analyzed for MNT possibilities, calculations, and logic.
- **November 2016:** Budget Enhancement Concept Request submitted by DHHS- DHCFP proposing RDN's as independent practitioners of MNT service.
- **January 2017:** Nevada Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics (NvAND) penned a formal letter of support to Governor Sandoval's office advocating Medicaid MNT inclusion.
- **February 2017:** Medicaid MNT reimbursement budget was approved in Governors biennium budget.
- **May 2017:** Nevada RDN's approved as Provider Type 15 during the 79<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session.

# Policy

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- **June 2017:** Medicaid began further MNT policy specifics, draft, including the conditions covered, hours, location of services delivered.
  - Nevada RDN work group requested coverage of all MNT ICD-10 codes, conditions.
- **October - November 2017:** two public workshops hosted by Nevada Medicaid for Nevada RDN's.
- **December 2017:** Public Hearing held to finalize policy, Nevada Medicaid State Plan, approve changes in the Medicaid Service Manual (MSM), then submit approved changes to The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) .
- **January 2018:** MNT Policy established, implemented. Nevada RDN's able to apply for Medicaid Fee-for-Service providers and MCO providers, begin submitting claims.
- **April 2018:** CMS approved the establishment of Medicaid policy, with automatic reprocessing of MNT services claims with dates of service on or after January 1, 2018.

# Provider Qualifications & Billable Conditions

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## **Provider Qualifications:**

- Registered Dietitian Licensed/certified within the state of Nevada under the qualifications of NRS 640E.150
- Must be enrolled as a Nevada Medicaid provider

## **Medicaid MNT Reimbursement for the following nutritionally related chronic disease states:**

- Diabetes
- Obesity
- Heart disease
- Hypertension

**Services must be ordered by Physicians, Physician's Assistants or Advanced Practice Registered Nurses.**

# Scope of Service

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- 4 hours of MNT reimbursement, per person, per diagnosis the first year, including:
  - Initial assessment visit
  - Follow-up intervention visits
  - Reassessments as necessary during the 12 rolling month episode of care
- 2 hours per year in subsequent years
- Can be performed in group, inpatient, outpatient, & telemedicine settings
- Additional hours are permitted if treating physician determines necessary

# Fee-for-Service & Managed Care Org's

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May 1, 2018: Currently 35 RDN's approved for Nevada Medicaid Fee-for-Service

- Fee-for-Service MNT billed using 2014 Physician fee schedule at 63% of the Medicare non-facility rate.

Medicaid RDN's eligible to contract with three Nevada Managed Care Organization (MCO's) for referral:

- Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Healthcare Solutions
- Health Plan of Nevada
- SilverSummit Healthplan

New Medicaid applicants automatically enrolled in an MCO – serve the majority of recipients



# Medicare

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Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) also covers MNT provided by a qualified RDN for:

- Diabetes and Diabetes Self Management Training (DSMT)
- Kidney disease, post kidney transplant

Medicare Part B covers three hours of MNT for the first year, and two hours every subsequent year