

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 2597-MC-FFS

DATE: June 18, 2024

TO: Iowa Medicaid Medical Supplies, Pharmacies, Physician MD, Physician DO, Nurse Practitioner (NP), Physician Assistant Provider

APPLIES TO: Managed Care (MC), Fee-for-Service (FFS)

FROM: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Iowa Medicaid

RE: Medical Foods Update

EFFECTIVE: Upon Receipt

This informational letter (IL) is to an update to IL No. 851 Food Thickener (B4100) and Medical Foods (S9435) issued on November 12, 2009

Iowa Medicaid would like to inform providers that medical foods are a covered service for some Inborn Errors of Metabolism (IEM) and Clinical Advisory Committee (CAC) criteria has been established. This criterion can be found in the Durable Medical Equipment (DME) section on the [CAC webpage](#)¹ on the [Iowa Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\) website](#)².

IEM are a large group of rare genetic disorders that result from a defect in an enzyme or transport protein causing the blockage of a metabolic pathway. Illness and symptoms result from toxic accumulations of substrates before the blockage, intermediate products from alternative metabolic pathways, defects in energy production and use caused by a deficiency of products beyond the blockage or a combination of these metabolic deviations.

A Medical food is defined in section 5(b) of the Orphan Drug Act (21 U.S.C. 360ee (b) (3) as: “A food which is formulated to be consumed or administered enterally under the supervision of a physician and which is intended for the specific dietary management of a disease or condition for which distinctive nutritional requirements, based on recognized scientific principles, are established by medical evaluation.”

¹ <https://hhs.iowa.gov/about/advisory-groups/clinical-advisory-committee-cac>

² <https://hhs.iowa.gov/>

Federal Drug Administration (FDA) guidance on medical foods states that “not all foods used for supplementing the diet of someone, even a person with a disease requiring dietary management are medical foods. Instead, medical foods are specially formulated and processed (as opposed to a naturally occurring foodstuff used in a natural state) for a patient who requires use of the product as a major component of a disease or condition’s specific dietary management.” **Naturally occurring foods and food typically available at the local grocery store would not meet the FDA definition of a medical food.**

Not all IEM require nutritional supplementation through medical foods. Members with the following IEM are eligible for coverage:

- Phenylketonuria (PKU),
- Maple syrup urine disease (MSUD),
- Homocystinuria,
- Urea cycle disorders,
- Organic acidemias (e.g., isovaleric acidemia, propionic acidemia, methylmalonic acidemia),
- Histidinemia,
- Tyrosinemia,
- von Gierke's disease,
- Pyruvate dehydrogenase deficiency,
- Lysinuric protein intolerance.

Providers should use S9435 to bill for this service. Medical foods require prior authorization and are covered when medically necessary for the treatment of a specific medical diagnosis.

Up to \$300 a month will be provided to offset the cost of medical foods for IEM, when the criteria outlined in Iowa Medicaid medical policy are met. Reimbursement excludes shipping costs in accordance with Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) §441—78.10(1)(4)(i).

If you have questions, please contact Iowa Medicaid Provider Services or the appropriate MCO:

Iowa Medicaid Provider Services:

- Phone: 1-800-338-7909
- Email: imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us

Managed Care Organizations (MCOs):

Iowa Total Care:

- Phone: 1-833-404-1061
- Email: providerrelations@iowatotalcare.com
- Website: <https://www.iowatotalcare.com>



Molina Healthcare of Iowa:

- Phone: 1-844-236-1464
- Email: iaproviderrelations@molinahealthcare.com
- Website: <https://www.molinahealthcare.com/providers/ia/medicaid/home.aspx>
- Provider Portal: <https://www.availity.com/molinahealthcare>

Wellpoint Iowa, Inc. (formerly Amerigroup Iowa, Inc.):

- Phone: 1-833-731-2143
- Email: ProviderSolutionsIA@wellpoint.com
- Website: <https://www.provider.wellpoint.com/iowa-provider/home>