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Inland Empire Health Plan

PHARMACY TIMES

BY IEHP PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

January 10, 2012

Important Message Regarding:

Adult Nutritional Supplementation Guidelines

Dear IEHP Providers:

Effective October 1, 2011, Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) adopted new Adult Enteral Nutritional Guidelines in order to comply with updated Medi-Cal Fee for Service criteria:

Pursuant to *Welfare and Institutions Code* (W&I Code), Section 14132, coverage is limited to **products administered through a feeding tube** (recipients under EPSDT are exempt).

Feeding tubes include a gastric, nasogastric or jejunostomy tube. Only products solely administered through a feeding tube are covered. Products administered through a syringe or other device into the mouth or esophagus are not covered. See the *Medical Supply Products: Miscellaneous* section of the Pharmacy and Allied Health Provider Manuals for the feeding tubes codes and claim information.

The Department deems an enteral nutrition product not administered through a feeding tube a benefit for patients with diagnoses of malabsorption or inborn errors of metabolism (IEM) when published to the provider manual (see below), and if the product has been shown to be neither investigational nor experimental when used as part of a therapeutic regimen to prevent serious disability or death.

Reference: <http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/bulletins/artfull/dme201109.asp#a1>

In accordance with the new Enteral Guidelines, effective 10/1/11, requests for all adult nutritional supplements for affected IEHP members (Medi-Cal/Healthy Families/Healthy Kids) must meet the following criteria in order to be approved:

- Must provide an Nutritional Evaluation Form (NEF);
 - Administered through a feeding tube (can be a gastric, nasogastric or jejunostomy tube);
- AND/OR**

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- When used as part of a therapeutic regimen to prevent serious disability or death for patients with diagnoses such as malabsorption and inborn errors of metabolism.
 - Other possible covered diagnoses: Malnutrition related to cancer treatment, HIV/AIDS wasting/cachexia, dialysis treatment, and Hepatitis C if the nutritional supplement is necessary to prevent serious disability or death

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the IEHP Pharmaceutical Services Department at 909-890-2049.

Sincerely,

IEHP Pharmaceutical Services Department