



# CODOXO

# Forensic AI Alert

February 2021

**Coming Soon!**  
**Customer Support Portal!**



# Coding for Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT)

## What is MNT Therapy?

Medical nutrition therapy (MNT) is utilized for specific conditions (diabetes, renal failure, elevated cholesterol) whereby a nutritionist or dietician meets face to face with the patient to educate them on dietary choices, and/or cooking alternatives pertaining to their condition. National Coverage Determination for MNT (NCD 180.1) affords each patient a minimum of three (3) hours for the first year of MNT and two (2) hours per subsequent year with exceptions for additional hours due to a change in condition, diagnosis or treatment schedule.

Examples of appropriate utilization may include newly diagnosed diabetic patients, existing diabetic patients with a change in their condition and/or medications to control their blood glucose levels, or patients who have renal disease and have dietary restrictions. ***MNT is not considered 'incident to' and should only be reported by the nutritionist or registered dietician that performed the services.*** The allowed services per year and coverage by condition may vary from payer to payer\*; however, most payers do not cover MNT services for weight loss management.

## Medical Nutrition Therapy

- What is MNT Therapy (appropriate utilization and who can report it)

## Coding Source References

- Procedure codes and variation by service
- What your health plan should expect from claims submissions
- What your health plan should consider outlier submissions
- How Codoxo can assist in identifying emerging risks, trends and outlier claims

## References:

1. References:  
CMS, Medicare Coverage Database, National Coverage Determination, 180.1, Medical Nutrition Therapy <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/ncd-details.aspx?NCDId=252&ver=1>
2. 2021 AMA CPT Manual, page 808
3. 2021 AAPC HCPCS Manual, page 196

## Procedure Codes for Medical Nutrition Therapy and Variation by Service

Code	Initial	Reassessment	Individual	Group	Minutes	DX/TX change
97802	Yes	No	Yes	No	15	No
97803	No	Yes	Yes	No	15	No
97804	N/A	N/A	No	Yes	30	No
G0270	No	Yes	Yes	No	15	Yes
G0271	No	Yes	No	Yes	30	Yes

What should your health plan expect regarding claims submissions for medical nutrition therapy services?

- Claims with procedure codes 97802, 97803, 97804, G0270 and G0271 submitted by dietitians, nutritionists or providers specializing in endocrinology
- Claims with procedure codes 97803, G0270 and G0271 submitted for patients with changes in their diagnosed condition or treatment regimen

What should your health plan consider as outlier utilization or unlikely medical nutrition therapy?\*

- Patients with high units of service per calendar year for MNT services (initial, reassessment, subsequent)
- Providers outside of the expected specialties submitting claims for any MNT service
- Providers billing a high volume of initial MNT units of service per patient without subsequent or reassessment MNT services

How can the Codoxo Forensic AI Platform assist your health plan with identifying emerging risks, trends and other outlier claims for medical nutrition therapy?

- The AI engine and detectors identify patterns, volume and frequency across all peer groups and claims allowing customers to identify, analyze and respond to potential FWA and efficacy issues
- The Query tool allows users to build custom queries, tailored to your organizational needs

If you are an existing customer, please contact your Customer Success representative or [support@codoxo.com](mailto:support@codoxo.com) for assistance with this topic. If you would like more information or to setup a demonstration of the Codoxo Forensic Platform, please contact [sales@codoxo.com](mailto:sales@codoxo.com).

*\*Refer to your health plan reimbursement policy*