

To all beneficiaries enrolled in a Prepaid Health Plan (PHP): for questions about benefits and services available on or after implementation, please contact your PHP.

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Related Clinical Coverage Policies

Refer to <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/> for the related coverage policies listed below:

1E-6, Pregnancy Medical Home

1-H, Telehealth, Virtual Patient Communications, and Remote Patient Monitoring

North Carolina Health Check Program Guide

1.0 Description of the Procedure, Product, or Service

Dietary Evaluation and Counseling offers direction and guidance for specific nutrient needs related to a beneficiary's diagnosis and treatment. Individualized care plans provide for disease-related dietary evaluation and counseling.

Medical lactation services provide support and counseling, or behavioral interventions to improve breastfeeding outcomes.

1.1 Definitions

None Apply.

2.0 Eligibility Requirements

2.1 Provisions

2.1.1 General

(The term "General" found throughout this policy applies to all Medicaid policies)

- a. An eligible beneficiary shall be enrolled in the NC Medicaid Program *(Medicaid is NC Medicaid program, unless context clearly indicates otherwise)*.
- b. Provider(s) shall verify each Medicaid beneficiary's eligibility each time a service is rendered.
- c. The Medicaid beneficiary may have service restrictions due to their eligibility category that would make them ineligible for this service.

2.1.2 Specific

(The term "Specific" found throughout this policy only applies to this policy)

- a. **Medicaid**
None Apply.

2.2 Special Provisions

2.2.1 EPSDT Special Provision: Exception to Policy Limitations for a Medicaid Beneficiary under 21 Years of Age

- a. **42 U.S.C. § 1396d(r) [1905(r) of the Social Security Act]**

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) is a federal Medicaid requirement that requires the state Medicaid agency to cover services, products, or procedures for Medicaid beneficiary under 21 years of age **if the service is medically necessary health care** to correct or

ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition [health problem] identified through a screening examination (includes any evaluation by a physician or other licensed practitioner).

This means EPSDT covers most of the medical or remedial care a child needs to improve or maintain his or her health in the best condition possible, compensate for a health problem, prevent it from worsening, or prevent the development of additional health problems.

Medically necessary services will be provided in the most economic mode, as long as the treatment made available is similarly efficacious to the service requested by the beneficiary's physician, therapist, or other licensed practitioner; the determination process does not delay the delivery of the needed service; and the determination does not limit the beneficiary's right to a free choice of providers.

EPSDT does not require the state Medicaid agency to provide any service, product or procedure:

1. that is unsafe, ineffective, or experimental or investigational.
2. that is not medical in nature or not generally recognized as an accepted method of medical practice or treatment.

Service limitations on scope, amount, duration, frequency, location of service, and other specific criteria described in clinical coverage policies may be exceeded or may not apply as long as the provider's documentation shows that the requested service is medically necessary "to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition" [health problem]; that is, provider documentation shows how the service, product, or procedure meets all EPSDT criteria, including to correct or improve or maintain the beneficiary's health in the best condition possible, compensate for a health problem, prevent it from worsening, or prevent the development of additional health problems.

b. EPSDT and Prior Approval Requirements

1. If the service, product, or procedure requires prior approval, the fact that the beneficiary is under 21 years of age does **NOT** eliminate the requirement for prior approval.
2. **IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** about EPSDT and prior approval is found in the *NCTracks Provider Claims and Billing Assistance Guide*, and on the EPSDT provider page. The Web addresses are specified below.

NCTracks Provider Claims and Billing Assistance Guide:

<https://www.nctracks.nc.gov/content/public/providers/provider-manuals.html>

EPSDT provider page: <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/>

2.2.2 Children through 20 Years of Age

Children through 20 years of age are eligible for dietary evaluation and counseling when they meet the medical necessity criteria listed in **Subsections 3.2.1.**

2.2.3 Pregnant and Postpartum Women

Pregnant and postpartum women are eligible for dietary evaluation and counseling when they meet the medical necessity criteria listed in **Subsection 3.2.2.**

3.0 When the Procedure, Product, or Service Is Covered

Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for Medicaid Beneficiaries under 21 Years of Age.

3.1 General Criteria Covered

Medicaid shall cover the procedure, product, or service related to this policy when medically necessary, and:

- a. the procedure, product, or service is individualized, specific, and consistent with symptoms or confirmed diagnosis of the illness or injury under treatment, and not in excess of the beneficiary's needs;
- b. the procedure, product, or service can be safely furnished, and no equally effective and more conservative or less costly treatment is available statewide; and
- c. the procedure, product, or service is furnished in a manner not primarily intended for the convenience of the beneficiary, the beneficiary's caretaker, or the provider.

3.1.1 Telehealth Services

As outlined in Attachment A, select services within this clinical coverage policy may be provided via telehealth. Services delivered via telehealth must follow the requirements and guidance set forth in Clinical Coverage Policy 1-H: Telehealth, Virtual Patient Communications, and Remote Patient Monitoring.

3.2 Specific Criteria Covered

3.2.1 Specific criteria covered by Medicaid

Medicaid beneficiaries under 21 years of age

Medicaid shall cover dietary evaluation and counseling for beneficiaries under 21 years of age; there is a chronic, episodic, or acute condition for which nutrition therapy is a critical component of medical management, including any one of the following:

- a. Inappropriate growth or weight gain such as inadequate weight gain, inappropriate weight loss, underweight, obesity, inadequate linear growth, or short stature;
- b. Nutritional anemia;
- c. Eating or feeding disorders that result in a medical condition such as failure to thrive, anorexia nervosa, or bulimia nervosa;

- d. Physical conditions that have an impact on growth and feeding, such as very low birth weight, necrotizing enterocolitis, cleft palate, cerebral palsy, and neural tube defects;
- e. Chronic or prolonged infections that have a nutritional treatment component, such as HIV or hepatitis;
- f. Genetic conditions that affect growth and feeding, such as cystic fibrosis, Prader-Willi Syndrome, or Down Syndrome;
- g. Chronic medical conditions, such as cancer, chronic or congenital cardiac disease, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, gastrointestinal diseases, liver disease, pulmonary disease, malabsorption syndromes, renal disease, significant food allergies, and diseases of the immune system;
- h. Metabolic disorders such as inborn errors of metabolism (phenylketonuria (PKU), galactosemia) and endocrine disorders such as diabetes;
- i. Non-healing wounds due to chronic conditions;
- j. Acute burns over significant body surface area;
- k. Metabolic Syndrome; or
- l. Documented history of a relative of the first degree with cardiovascular disease or possessing factors that significantly increase the risk of cardiovascular disease, such as a sedentary lifestyle, elevated cholesterol, smoking, high blood pressure, and higher than ideal body weight.

3.2.2 Medicaid Additional Criteria Covered

Pregnant and Postpartum Women

Medicaid shall cover dietary evaluation and counseling for pregnant women when the pregnancy is threatened by chronic, episodic, or acute conditions for which nutrition therapy is a critical component of medical management, and for postpartum women who need follow-up for these conditions or who develop such conditions early in the postpartum period, including any one of the following:

- a. Conditions that affect the length of gestation or the birth weight, where nutrition is an underlying cause, such as:
 - 1. Severe anemia [Hemoglobin (HgB) less than 10m/dl or Hematocrit (Hct) less than 30].
 - 2. Preconceptionally underweight (less than 90% standard weight for height).
 - 3. Inadequate weight gain during pregnancy.
 - 4. Intrauterine growth retardation.
 - 5. Very young maternal age (under the age of 16).
 - 6. Multiple gestation; or
 - 7. Substance use.
- b. Metabolic disorders, such as diabetes, thyroid dysfunction, maternal PKU, or other inborn errors of metabolism.

- c. Chronic medical conditions, such as cancer, heart disease, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, inflammatory bowel disease, malabsorption syndromes, or renal disease.
- d. Auto-immune diseases of nutritional significance, such as systemic lupus erythematosus.
- e. Eating disorders, such as severe pica, anorexia nervosa, or bulimia nervosa
- f. Obesity when the following criteria are met:
 - 1. Body Mass Index (BMI) greater than 30 in same woman pre-pregnancy and postpartum.
 - 2. BMI greater than 35 at 6 weeks of pregnancy; or
 - 3. BMI greater than 30 at 12 weeks of pregnancy.
- or**
- g. Documented history of a relative of the first degree with cardiovascular disease or possessing factors that significantly increase the risk of cardiovascular disease, such as a sedentary lifestyle, elevated cholesterol, smoking, high blood pressure, and higher than ideal body weight.

Medical Lactation Services

Medicaid shall cover a lactation evaluation and breastfeeding counseling when the breastfeeding infant has a chronic, episodic, or acute condition for which medical lactation services are a critical component of medical management.

These services include an individualized assessment and counseling when the breastfeeding infant:

- a. Has latch-on difficulties;
- b. Is premature;
- c. Is a multiple birth;
- d. Requires breastmilk and the mother-infant dyad needs assistance in the continuation of breastfeeding;
- e. Is a special-needs infant (such as Down Syndrome, cleft lip or palate or other congenital deformity affecting feeding);
- f. Jaundice;
- g. Dehydration and difficulty with weight gain; or
- h. Inadequate weight gain or inappropriate weight loss.

4.0 When the Procedure, Product, or Service Is Not Covered

Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for Medicaid Beneficiaries under 21 Years of Age.

4.1 General Criteria Not Covered

Medicaid shall not cover the procedure, product, or service related to this policy when:

- a. the beneficiary does not meet the eligibility requirements listed in **Section 2.0**;
- b. the beneficiary does not meet the criteria listed in **Section 3.0**;

- c. the procedure, product, or service duplicates another provider's procedure, product, or service; or
- d. the procedure, product, or service is experimental, investigational, or part of a clinical trial.

4.2 Specific Criteria Not Covered

4.2.1 Specific Criteria Not Covered by Medicaid

None Apply.

4.2.2 Medicaid Additional Criteria Not Covered

Medicaid shall not cover group medical lactation services under this policy.

5.0 Requirements for and Limitations on Coverage

Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for Medicaid Beneficiaries under 21 Years of Age.

5.1 Prior Approval

Medicaid shall not require prior approval for Dietary Evaluation and Counseling and Medical Lactation Services.

5.2 Prior Approval Requirements

5.2.1 General

None Apply.

5.2.2 Specific

None Apply.

5.3 Requirements or Limitations

5.3.1 Documentation Requirements

- a. Medicaid shall require all the following documentation for **dietary evaluation and consultation**:
 - 1. Review of medical management, an evaluation of medical and psychosocial history, and treatment plan as they impact nutrition interventions;
 - 2. Assessment of living conditions related to nutrition evaluation such as possession of a working stove, refrigerator, and access to city water or tested well water;
 - 3. Diagnostic nutritional assessment, consisting of:
 - A. Review and interpretation of pertinent laboratory and anthropometric data.
 - B. Analysis of dietary and nutrient intake.
 - C. Determination of nutrient–drug interactions, and
 - D. Assessment of feeding skills and methods.
 - 4. Development of an individualized nutrition care plan, consisting of
 - A. Recommendations for nutrient and calorie modification.

- B. Calculation of a therapeutic diet for disease states such as diabetes, renal disease, and galactosemia, and
 - C. Referral to other health care providers.
 5. Counseling on nutritional or dietary management of nutrition-related medical conditions;
 6. Consultation with the beneficiary's primary care provider; and
 7. Education on reading food labels.
- b. Medicaid shall require all the following documentation for **medical lactation counseling**:
1. Review of infant medical management, evaluation of medical and psychosocial history and treatment plan as they impact lactation interventions;
 2. Diagnostic lactation assessment must consist of all the following:
 - A. history of infant feeding, sleep, and activity patterns;
 - B. urine and stool output;
 - C. Infant weight; weight cannot be conducted via telephone and audio/video.
 - D. Skin color, condition, turgor, moisture and temperature; and
 - E. Alertness;
 3. review and consultation with ordering provider of pertinent infant laboratory and radiologic data;
 4. observation of feeding with pre-and post-weights, if indicated by clinical judgement;
 5. referral of infant for additional testing or medical treatment if indicated; and
 6. communication of all pertinent lactation assessment details to the infant's primary care provider.

5.3.2 Service Limitations for Dietary Evaluation and Counseling

The initial assessment and intervention for a Medicaid beneficiary is limited to four units of service per date of service and cannot exceed four units per 270 calendar-days by the same or a different provider.

The re-assessment and intervention is limited to four units of service per date of service and cannot exceed 20 units per 365 calendar days by the same or a different provider.

Dietary evaluation and counseling must be provided as an individual, face-to-face encounter with the beneficiary or the beneficiary's caretaker.

5.3.3 Medical Lactation Service Limitations and Conditions for Medicaid Beneficiaries

Medical Lactation services are limited to a maximum of six (6) units per day with a maximum of thirty-six (36) lifetime units. This service must be provided as an individual, face-to-face encounter with the mother-infant dyad. Billing shall be applied to the infant.

6.0 Providers Eligible to Bill for the Procedure, Product, or Service

To be eligible to bill for the procedure, product, or service related to this policy, the provider(s) shall:

- a. meet Medicaid qualifications for participation;
- b. have a current and signed Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Provider Administrative Participation Agreement; and
- c. bill only for procedures, products, and services that are within the scope of their clinical practice, as defined by the appropriate licensing entity.

Note: Medicaid-enrolled providers who employ or contract with licensed dietitians or nutritionists, registered dietitians or lactation consultants (such as local health departments, rural health centers, federally qualified health centers, physician or medical diagnostic clinics, outpatient hospitals and physicians) are eligible to bill for this service.

6.1 Provider Qualifications and Occupational Licensing Entity Regulations

- a. **Dietary evaluation and counseling services** provided in hospitals, outpatient clinics, physician or medical diagnostic clinics, and physician offices shall be performed by:
 1. dietitian or nutritionist, currently licensed by the N.C. Board of Dietetics and Nutrition (provisional license is not acceptable);
 2. a registered dietitian, currently registered with the Commission of Dietetic Registration (registration eligibility is not acceptable);

Dietician, Registered – 133V00000X
Nutrition, Gerontological – 133VN1101X
Nutrition, Obesity and Weight Management – 133VN1201X
Nutrition, Oncology – 133VN1301X
Nutrition, Pediatric – 133VN1004X
Nutrition, Pediatric Critical Care – 133VN1401X
Nutrition, Renal – 133VN1005X
Nutrition, Sports Dietetics – 133VN1501X
Nutritionist – 133N00000X

- b. **Medical lactation services** provided in hospital outpatient clinics, federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, private agencies, physician or medical diagnostic clinics, health departments and physician offices must be performed by:
 1. physicians, certified nurse midwives (CNMs), nurse practitioners (NPs), physician assistants (PA's); or

2. International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) consultants who are either employed or contracted by the physician or physician group or have a referral for an IBCLC consult in another medical practice.

6.2 Staff Qualifications

It is the responsibility of the provider agency to verify in writing all staff qualifications for their staff's provision of service; or for an individual provider to maintain a copy of their current certification from Commission of Dietetic Registration (CDR) or licensure verification from the North Carolina Board of Dietetics and Nutrition (NCBDN). A copy of this verification (current licensure or certification) must be maintained by the provider agency or the individual provider.

7.0 Additional Requirements

Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2.1 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for a Medicaid Beneficiary under 21 Years of Age.

7.1 Compliance

Provider(s) shall comply with the following in effect at the time the service is rendered:

- a. All applicable agreements, federal, state and local laws and regulations including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and record retention requirements; and
- b. All NC Medicaid's clinical (medical) coverage policies, guidelines, policies, provider manuals, implementation updates, and bulletins published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), DHHS, DHHS division(s) or fiscal contractor(s).

7.2 Dietary Evaluation and Counseling Documentation

Health record documentation must be maintained for each beneficiary and contain, at a minimum, the following:

- a. The beneficiary's primary care or specialty care provider's order for the service or referral;
- b. The date of service;
- c. The presenting problem;
- d. A summary of the required nutrition service components; and
- e. The signature of the qualified nutritionist providing the service.

7.3 Medical Lactation Services Documentation

Lactation Services documentation must contain all the following:

- a. The beneficiary's primary care or specialty care provider's order for the service or referral;
- b. The date of service;
- c. The presenting problem;
- d. A summary of the required medical lactation service components; and
- e. The signature of the qualified IBCLC, MD, CNM, NP or PA providing the service.

7.4 WIC Program

All individuals categorically eligible for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program shall be referred to that program for routine nutrition education and food supplements.

Note: For agencies that also administer a WIC Program, the nutrition education contacts required by that program shall be provided prior to billing Medicaid for dietary evaluation and counseling. Staff time utilized to provide a Medicaid-reimbursable nutrition service shall not be charged to WIC Program funds.

Dietitians or nutritionists providing dietary evaluation and counseling are encouraged to refer eligible clients to the Pregnancy Care Management (PCM) or Care Coordination for Children (CC4C) programs as appropriate.

All individuals categorically eligible for the WIC Program shall be referred to that program for nutrition education, lactation support, eligible breastfeeding supplies and supplemental foods. If after required WIC services have been provided, additional medical lactation services shall be reimbursed if:

- a. It is medically necessary, and
- b. The medical documentation supports the need.

8.0 Policy Implementation/Revision Information

Original Effective Date: June 1, 2001

Revision Information:

Date	Section Revised	Change
1/1/08	Section 6.0	Providers eligible to bill for the services were expanded to include outpatient hospital clinics, physician and medical diagnostic clinics, and physician's office effective with date of service 4/1/07 as approved by CMS on 10/1/06.
1/1/08	Attachment A, item B	ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes 278.00, 278.01, 783.7, and 783.41 were added to the policy.
1/1/08	Attachment A, item D	RC 942 was added as a covered code for hospital outpatient clinic providers.
7/1/09	Throughout	Updated language to DMA's current standard.
7/1/09	Section 6.0	Added a paragraph that shows DMA's standard language for provider qualifications.
7/1/09	Section 7.1	Added this section on compliance and renumbered subsequent sections.
7/1/09	Attachment A	Deleted specific instructions in Claim Type (standard language is sufficient); added full descriptions to Diagnosis Codes; clarified billing instructions for item 3 in Billing Units.
10/27/09	Attachment A Section B	Added statement that Children 0-20 years of age are not limited to the diagnosis list below. Added the words "pregnant or postpartum" before the word recipient.
7/1/10	Throughout	Session Law 2009-451, Section 10.31(a) Transition of NC Health Choice Program administrative oversight from the State Health Plan to the Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) in the NC Department of Health and Human Services.
3/12/12	Throughout	To be equivalent where applicable to NC DMA's Clinical Coverage Policy # 1I under Session Law 2011-145 § 10.41. (b)
3/12/12	Throughout	Technical changes to merge Medicaid and NCHC current coverage into one policy.
10/01/2015	All Sections and Attachments	Updated policy template language and added ICD-10 codes to comply with federally mandated 10/1/2015 implementation where applicable.
08/01/2017	All Sections and Attachments	Policy title changed from: "Dietary Evaluation and Counseling" to "Dietary Evaluation and Counseling and Medical Lactation Services"
08/01/2017	Section 1.0	Added information description for medical lactation services.

Date	Section Revised	Change
08/01/2017	Subsection 3.2.2	Added criteria for coverage of medical lactation services
08/01/2017	Subsection 4.2.2	Added additional criteria for medical lactation services that are not covered.
08/01/2017	Subsection 5.1	Added information on prior approval requirements for medical lactation services.
08/01/2017	Subsection 5.3.1	Added documentation requirements for dietary evaluation and consultation and medical lactation services
08/01/2017	Subsection 5.3.2	Added Service Limitations for Dietary Evaluation and Counseling
08/01/2017	Subsection 5.3.3	Medical Lactation Service Limitations and Conditions for Medicaid Beneficiaries
08/01/2017	Subsection 6.1	Added medical lactation service provider qualifications.
08/01/2017	Subsection 7.3	Clarified medical lactation service documentation requirements.
08/01/2017	Subsection 7.4	Added guidelines for medical lactation services and WIC.
08/01/2017	Attachment A(B)	Discussed specific ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes for infants qualifying for medical lactation services.
08/01/2017	Attachment A(C)	Added table for medical lactation services and requirements for billing services. Added Same Day Health Check Wellness Visits and Sick Child (E/M) Encounters
08/01/2017	Attachment A(E)	Added regulations for billing medical lactation services.
08/01/2017	Attachment A(F)	Added place of services allowed for medical lactation services.
08/03/2017	All Sections and Attachments	Amended policy posted on this date, with an EFFECTIVE Date of 08/01/2017.
12/01/2017	Subsection 5.3.3	Updated Medical Lactation Service Limitations and Conditions for Medicaid Beneficiaries
12/01/2017	Attachment A(C)	Added table for medical lactation services CPT codes and requirements for billing services. Added Same Day Health Check Wellness Visits and Sick Child (E/M) Encounters
12/01/2017	Attachment A(E)	Added service limitations and regulations for billing medical lactation services codes.
03/15/2019	Table of Contents	Added, "To all beneficiaries enrolled in a Prepaid Health Plan (PHP): for questions about benefits and services available on or after November 1, 2019, please contact your PHP."
03/15/2019	All Sections and Attachments	Updated policy template language.

Date	Section Revised	Change
12/20/2019	Table of Contents	Updated policy template language, “To all beneficiaries enrolled in a Prepaid Health Plan (PHP): for questions about benefits and services available on or after implementation, please contact your PHP.”
12/20/2019	Attachment A	Added, “Unless directed otherwise, Institutional Claims must be billed according to the National Uniform Billing Guidelines. All claims must comply with National Coding Guidelines”.
02/01/2020	Attachment A (C)	Remove end dated CPT codes 96150, 96151 and 96152.
02/01/2020	Attachment A (C)	Add CPT codes 96156, 96158 and 96159.
02/01/2020	Attachment A (D)	Remove end dated CPT codes 96150, 96151 and 96152.
02/01/2020	Attachment A (D)	Add CPT codes 96156, 96158 and 96159.
02/01/2020	Attachment A (E)	Billing guidance removed as it no longer applies.
07/01/2020	Attachment A (C)	Remove end dated CPT codes 96150, 96151 and 96152.
07/01/2020	Attachment A (C)	Add CPT codes 96156, 96158 and 96159.
07/01/2020	Attachment A (D)	Remove end dated CPT codes 96150, 96151 and 96152.
07/01/2020	Attachment A (D)	Add CPT codes 96156, 96158 and 96159.
07/01/2020	Attachment A (E)	Billing guidance removed as it no longer applies.
12/01/2020	Added Subsection 3.1.1	As outlined in Attachment A, select services within this clinical coverage policy may be provided via telehealth. Services delivered via telehealth must follow the requirements and guidance set forth in Clinical Coverage Policy 1-H: Telehealth, Virtual Patient Communications, and Remote Patient Monitoring.
12/01/2020	Section 6.1	Added 9 Level 2 and 3 provider taxonomies eligible to provide dietary evaluation and counseling services.
12/01/2020	Section 6.2	Updated provider qualifications and certification responsibilities.
12/01/2020	Attachment A, letter C	Added columns to dietary evaluation and medical lactation codes indicating if the services were eligible for telehealth along with the following language: Note: Telehealth eligible services may be provided to both new and established patients by the eligible providers listed within this policy

Date	Section Revised	Change
12/01/2020	Attachment A, letter D	Added the following language for telehealth services: Telehealth Claims: Modifier GT must be appended to the CPT or HCPCS code to indicate that a service has been provided via interactive audio-visual communication. This modifier is not appropriate for virtual patient communications or remote patient monitoring.
12/01/2020	Attachment A, letter F	Added language indicating telehealth codes should be filed with the provider’s usual place of service code(s)
12/01/2020	Attachment A, letter H	Registered Dietitians or Nutritionists enrolled in NC Medicaid may bill under their employers NPI or bill directly with their own NPI.
12/01/2020	Added beginning of Policy	Added the language “This clinical coverage policy has an effective date of November 15, 2020; however, until the end of the public health emergency, the temporary coverage and reimbursement flexibilities enabled by NC Medicaid through a series of COVID-19 Special Medicaid Bulletins will remain in effect.”
8/15/2023	All Sections and Attachments	Updated policy template language due to North Carolina Health Choice Program’s move to Medicaid. Policy posted 8/15/2023 with an effective date of 4/1/2023.

Attachment A: Claims-Related Information

Provider(s) shall comply with the, *NCTracks Provider Claims and Billing Assistance Guide*, Medicaid bulletins, fee schedules, NC Medicaid’s clinical coverage policies and any other relevant documents for specific coverage and reimbursement for Medicaid:

A. Claim Type

- Professional (CMS-1500/837P transaction)
- Institutional (UB-04/837I transaction)

Unless directed otherwise, Institutional Claims must be billed according to the National Uniform Billing Guidelines. All claims must comply with National Coding Guidelines.

B. International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revisions, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) and Procedural Coding System (PCS)

Provider(s) shall report the ICD-10-CM and Procedural Coding System (PCS) to the highest level of specificity that supports medical necessity. Provider(s) shall use the current ICD-10 edition and any subsequent editions in effect at the time of service. Provider(s) shall refer to the applicable edition for code description, as it is no longer documented in the policy.

Children 0-20 years of age

Children 0-20 years of age are not limited to a specific diagnosis.

Pregnant and Postpartum Women

One of the primary diagnosis codes listed below must be used when the pregnant or postpartum beneficiary is 21 years of age or older.

ICD-10-CM Code(s)		
B20	O09.512	P92.2
E66.01	O09.513	P92.3
E66.3	O09.521	P92.4
E66.9	O09.522	P92.6
O09.02	O09.523	R62.51
O09.03	O09.611	R62.7
O09.11	O09.612	Q90.0
O09.12	O09.613	Q90.1
O09.13	O09.621	Q90.2
O09.211	O09.622	Z33.1
O09.212	O09.623	Z34.01
O09.213	O09.891	Z34.02
O09.291	O09.892	Z34.03
O09.292	O09.893	Z34.81
O09.293	O09.91	Z34.82
O09.31	O09.92	Z34.83
O09.32	O09.93	Z34.91
O09.33	O98.7	Z34.92
O09.41	O99.211	Z34.93
O09.42	O99.212	Z39.2

O09.43 O09.511	O99.213 O99.215	
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Infants Receiving Medical Lactation Services

Infants receiving medical lactation services are not limited to a specific diagnosis. The following list has examples but is not all inclusive.

ICD-10-CM Code(s)		
D50.8	P74.1	Q37.2
D53.9	P74.2	Q37.3
E70.0	P74.3	Q37.4
E80.5	P77.1	Q37.5
E84.8	P77.2	Q38.1
P05.1	P77.3	Q38.5
P05.2	P92.01	R10.83
P55.1	P92.09	R11.10
P58.0	P92.1	R11.12
P58.1	P92.2	R11.14
P58.2	P92.3	R19.4
P58.3	P92.4	R19.5
P58.41	P92.5	R19.7
P58.42	P92.6	R19.8
P58.5	P92.8	R62.51
P58.8	P92.9	R63.3
P58.9	Q35.1	R63.4
P59.0	Q35.3	R63.5
P59.3	Q36.0	R63.6
P59.8	Q36.9	R68.11
P59.9	Q37.0	R68.12
P92.4	Q37.1	O98.7

C. Code(s)

Provider(s) shall report the most specific billing code that accurately and completely describes the procedure, product or service provided. Provider(s) shall use the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT), Health Care Procedure Coding System (HCPCS), and UB-04 Data Specifications Manual (for a complete listing of valid revenue codes) and any subsequent editions in effect at the time of service. Provider(s) shall refer to the applicable edition for the code description, as it is no longer documented in the policy.

If no such specific CPT or HCPCS code exists, then the provider(s) shall report the procedure, product or service using the appropriate unlisted procedure or service code.

Dietary Evaluation and Counseling Codes

Hospital outpatient clinics bill for services using RC 942.

CPT Code(s)	Telehealth Eligible Service
97802	Yes
97803	Yes

Note: Telehealth eligible services may be provided to both new and established patients by the eligible providers listed within this policy.

Medical Lactation Services Codes

CPT Code(s)	Telehealth Eligible Service
96156	Yes
96158	Yes
96159	Yes

Note: Telehealth eligible services may be provided to both new and established patients by the eligible providers listed within this policy.

Physicians, NPs, PAs, CNMs may bill for medical lactation services as a component of their office visit codes when appropriate. These providers, along with health departments, can bill for the services of IBCLCs under their employ using codes 96156, 96158, or 96159. Federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics use HCPCS procedure code T1015 (Clinic visit/encounter, all inclusive). Dietary Evaluation and Counseling and Medical Lactation Service is a core service.

The following conditions **must** apply:

1. A medical condition (e.g., feeding problem or low weight gain) diagnosed by the physician, NP, PA, or CNM.
2. If the beneficiary is seen by the physician and the IBCLC on the same date of service, the physician must include the services provided by the IBCLC by billing the appropriate E/M code. Health and behavior visits using codes 96156, 96158, 96159 may not be reported on the same date of service as an E/M service.
3. The visit is not for generalized preventive counseling or risk factor reduction.
4. The visit is billable in 15-minute time increments (1unit), based on the IBCLCs time (they are not for use by physicians or other billable licensed health care provider), when performed.

Same Day Health Check Wellness Visits and Sick Child (E/M) Encounters

When Medicaid beneficiaries under 21 years of age receiving a preventative screen also require evaluation and management (E/M) of a focused complaint, the provider may deliver all medically necessary care and submit a claim for both the preventative service (CPT 9938x/9939x) and the appropriate level of focused, E/M service (CPT 9920x/9921x).

Note: When providing E/M services of a focused complaint during an Early Preventative Screening visit, the provider may claim only the *additional* time required above and beyond the completion of the comprehensive Early Preventative Screening exam to address the complaint.

Unlisted Procedure or Service

CPT: The provider(s) shall refer to and comply with the Instructions for Use of the CPT Codebook, Unlisted Procedure or Service, and Special Report as documented in the current CPT in effect at the time of service.

HCPCS: The provider(s) shall refer to and comply with the Instructions for Use of HCPCS National Level II codes, Unlisted Procedure or Service and Special Report as documented in the current HCPCS edition in effect at the time of service.

D. Modifiers

Non-Telehealth Claims: Provider(s) shall follow applicable modifier guidelines. Providers who bill for Medical Lactation services with codes 96156, 96158, and 96159 must append the SC modifier to denote Medical Lactation Services.

Telehealth Claims: Modifier GT must be appended to the CPT or HCPCS code to indicate that a service has been provided via interactive audio-visual communication. This modifier is not appropriate for virtual patient communications or remote patient monitoring. Providers who bill for Medical Lactation services with codes 96156, 96158, and 96159 must append the SC modifier to denote Medical Lactation Services.

E. Billing Units

Provider(s) shall report the appropriate code(s) used which determines the billing unit(s).

F. Place of Service

Dietary Evaluation

Dietary evaluation and counseling is provided in hospital outpatient clinics; public agencies such as health departments, federally qualified health centers, and rural health clinics; private agencies; physician or medical diagnostic clinics; and physician offices.

Telehealth claims should be filed with the provider's usual place of service code(s).

Lactation Consultation Services

Services must be provided in hospital outpatient clinics; public agencies such as health departments, federally qualified health centers, and rural health clinics; private agencies; physician or medical diagnostic clinics; and physician offices.

Telehealth claims should be filed with the provider's usual place of service code(s).

G. Co-payments

For Medicaid refer to Medicaid State Plan:

<https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/meetings-notices/medicaid-state-plan-public-notices>

H. Reimbursement

Provider(s) shall bill their usual and customary charges. Registered Dietitians or Nutritionists enrolled in NC Medicaid may bill under their employers NPI or bill directly with their own NPI. For a schedule of rates, refer to: <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/>

All agencies shall bill the same fee for all beneficiaries who receive the same service.