

Childhood Nutrition and Weight Management Services

Childhood Nutrition and Weight Management Services:

Effective **November 1, 2007**, the Department of Public Welfare (Department) added Childhood Nutrition and Weight Management Services (CNWMS) for eligible Medical Assistance (MA) recipients under the age of 21 years to the Medical Assistance (MA) Program Fee Schedule.

Scope:

These services apply to physicians, certified registered nurse practitioners (CRNPs), registered nurses, nutritionists, outpatient hospitals, independent medical surgical clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) enrolled in the MA Program.

CNWMS consist of the following specific services: initial assessment, re-assessment, individual/family/group weight management counseling and nutritional counseling.

Initial Assessment and Re-Assessment:

The initial assessment and re-assessment can only be performed by physicians and CRNPs.

The purpose of the initial assessment is to determine the need for other CNWMS.

The re-assessment gauges the progress made by the child in their weight management-related treatment, to determine if CNWMS continue to be medically necessary and appropriate for the child, and whether the frequency, amount and duration of services should be adjusted.

When billing for the initial assessment and re-assessment, providers should include on their claim form the appropriate five-digit diagnosis code 278.00 through 278.02 in conjunction with the accompanying V-code from the table below.

V85.54 (obesity)	BMI \geq 95 th percentile and above
V85.53 (obesity)	BMI 85 th < 95 th percentile
V85.52 (obesity)	BMI 5 th < 85 th percentile

CPT code 96150 and modifiers U3 and TJ must accompany the diagnosis codes identified above for an initial assessment and CPT code 96151 and modifier TJ must accompany the diagnosis codes identified above for a re-assessment.

Individual, Group, and Family Weight Management Counseling:

The Department encourages weight management counseling providers to address recommended topics during the counseling sessions, including (as appropriate), caloric intake and physical activity. Refer to the MA bulletin for more details on individual, group and family weight management counseling.

Nutritional Counseling:

Nutritional counseling can only be performed by a registered dietitian who is enrolled in the MA Program.

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Nutritional counseling is provided to the individual eligible child by a nutritional counseling provider, and focuses on proper nutrition and eating behaviors so the eligible child may better achieve their weight management goals and maintain good health.

The Department encourages nutritional counseling providers to address recommended topics during the child's counseling session, including (as appropriate) (1) the impact of nutrition; (2) actions needed to promote an adequate, balanced diet; (3) maintenance and prevention of vitamin/mineral deficiencies; (4) avoidance of drugs/alcohol; (5) food management including shopping, storage, and preparation; (6) monitoring of previously recommended dietary interventions; (7) special nutrition needs and the value of supplements; (8) relationship of medications to diet; (9) and the child's nutritional care plan.

Payment Limitations:

Physicians, CRNPs, outpatient hospital clinics and independent medical surgical clinics may bill for a physical exam or complete EPSDT screen and an initial assessment or re-assessment rendered to a child on the same day.

Physicians, CRNPs, outpatient hospital clinics and independent medical surgical clinics may bill for an office visit or clinic visit and a CNWMS rendered to a child on the same day if the child is not being seen solely for a CNWMS.

Physicians, CRNPs, outpatient hospital clinics and independent medical surgical clinics may bill for an initial assessment or re-assessment and individual, group, or family weight management counseling rendered to a child on the same day.

An initial assessment is at least 30 minutes in duration, per assessment. Initial assessments are limited to 3 assessments per child per 365 consecutive day period.

A re-assessment is at least 30 minutes in duration, per re-assessment. Re-assessments are limited to 4 re-assessments per child per 365 consecutive day period.

An initial assessment must be performed prior to providing weight management counseling services. Weight management counseling services are initially limited to a combined total of 24 15-minute units of service or clinic visits, for individual, group, and family weight management counseling per child per 365 consecutive day period.

FQHCs and RHCs may bill the MA Program for one medical visit per day for CNWMS.

If an individual child requires additional CNWMS beyond the service limits, providers (including FQHCs and RHCs) may request a Program Exception (also known as an 1150 Administrative Waiver). To request a Program Exception, providers should complete an Outpatient Services Authorization Request form (MA 97) and mail it to the Department at the appropriate address indicated on the form. When completing the Program Exception request, providers should include detailed justification and rationale supporting the necessity of the additional services.

Additional Information:

Billing procedures, fee schedule modifications, and additional details relating to CNWMS for children under 21 years of age can be found in **MA Bulletin # 99-08-01 (Clarification of Childhood Nutrition and Weight Management Services for Recipients Under 21 Years of Age)** and **MA Bulletin # 99-07-19 (Childhood Nutrition and Weight Management Services for Recipients Under 21 Years of Age)** located at:

<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/PubsFormsReports/NewslettersBulletins/003673169.aspx?BulletinDetailId=4304>

<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/PubsFormsReports/NewslettersBulletins/003673169.aspx?BulletinDetailId=4131>.