

Washington Apple Health (Medicaid)

Medical Nutrition Therapy Billing Guide

January 1, 2019

Every effort has been made to ensure this guide's accuracy. If an actual or apparent conflict between this document and an agency rule arises, the agency rules apply.

About this guide*

This publication takes effect January 1, 2019, and supersedes earlier guides to this program.

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Washington Apple Health means the public health insurance programs for eligible Washington residents. Washington Apple Health is the name used in Washington State for Medicaid, the children's health insurance program (CHIP), and state-only funded health care programs. Washington Apple Health is administered by the Washington State Health Care Authority.

What has changed?

Subject	Change	Reason for Change
Entire Guide	Updated WAC links throughout the guide for new chapter 182-555 WAC.	Changes to chapter 182-555 WAC.
Entire Guide	Changed dietitians to Registered Dietitians (RD).	Changes to chapter 182-555 WAC.
<u>Client Eligibility: BHO, Changes for January 1, 2019, IMC, and Integrated Apple Health Foster Care</u>	Effective January 1, 2019 , some existing integrated managed care regions have new counties and many new regions and counties will be implemented.	Apple Health managed care organizations (MCOs) in certain RSAs will expand their coverage of behavioral health services (mental health and substance use disorder treatment), along with continuing to cover physical health services.
<u>Definitions</u>	Updated the following definitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical nutrition therapy • Registered dietitian 	Changes to chapter 182-555 WAC.

* This publication is a billing instruction.

Subject	Change	Reason for Change
<u>Definitions</u>	Added the following definitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition assessment • Nutrition care process • Nutrition-related diagnosis 	Changes to chapter 182-555 WAC.
<u>What is the purpose of the medical nutrition therapy program?</u>	Updated the purpose of the medical nutrition therapy to be consistent with new chapter 182-555 WAC.	Changes to chapter 182-555 WAC.
<u>Who is eligible for Medical Nutrition Therapy?</u>	Added new eligibility criteria for receiving medical nutrition therapy to be consistent with chapter 182-555 WAC.	Changes to chapter 182-555 WAC.
<u>Are clients enrolled in an agency-contracted managed care organization (MCO) eligible?</u>	Changed name of section to include the acronym for MCO.	Clarification
<u>Are clients enrolled in an agency-contracted managed care organization (MCO) eligible?</u>	Updated section information to be consistent with other current billing guides.	Clarification
<u>Who can refer a client for medical nutrition therapy?</u>	Updated list of providers who may refer clients for medical nutrition therapy.	Changes to chapter 182-555 WAC.
<u>What are the appropriate conditions for referral?</u>	Removed section and list of referral conditions.	Policy Change
<u>When does the agency cover telemedicine?</u>	Added new section covering telemedicine.	Policy Change
<u>What additional documentation must be kept when providing medical nutrition therapy?</u>	Title change from "What additional records must be kept when providing medical nutrition therapy?"	Changes to chapter 182-555 WAC.
<u>What additional documentation must be kept when providing medical nutrition therapy?</u>	Added new documentation requirement criteria and removed old requirements.	Changes to chapter 182-555 WAC.

How can I get agency provider documents?

To access provider alerts, go to the agency's [provider alerts](#) web page.

To access provider documents, go to the agency's [provider billing guides and fee schedules](#) web page.

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Resources Available

Topic	Resource
Becoming a provider or submitting a change of address or ownership	See the agency's ProviderOne Resources web page
Contacting Provider Enrollment	
Finding out about payments, denials, claims processing, or agency managed care organizations	
Electronic billing	
Finding agency documents (e.g., billing guides, fee schedules)	
Private insurance or third-party liability, other than agency-contracted managed care	
Access E-learning tools	See the agency's ProviderOne Resources web page

Definitions

This section defines terms and abbreviations, including acronyms, used in this billing guide. Refer to [chapter 182-500 WAC](#) for a complete list of definitions for Washington Apple Health.

Benefit Service Package - A grouping of benefits or services applicable to a client or group of clients.

Note: Registered Dietitians licensed in the State of Oregon may be assigned an Agency-Certified Dietitian ProviderOne ID/NPI.

Enteral Nutrition – The use of medically necessary nutrition products alone, or in combination with traditional food, when a client is unable to consume enough traditional food to meet nutrition requirements. Enteral nutrition solutions can be given orally or via feeding tubes. [WAC 182-554-200](#)

Enteral Nutrition Product - Enteral nutrition formulas and/or products. [WAC 182-554-200](#)

Maximum Allowable - The maximum dollar amount that a provider may be reimbursed by the Agency for specific services, supplies, or equipment.

Medical Nutrition Therapy - An interaction between the registered dietitian (RD) and the client or client's guardian for the purpose of evaluating and making recommendations regarding the client's nutritional status.

Nutrition assessment- As part of the Nutrition Care Process, Nutrition Assessment is the collection, interpretation and documentation of information necessary to evaluate nutrition status, needs, and interventions. The information includes food or nutrition-related data; biochemical data, medical tests and procedures;

anthropometric measurements, nutrition-focused physical findings and client history.

Nutrition care process - A systematic approach to providing high-quality nutrition care. Provides a framework for the registered dietitian (RD) to individualize care, taking into account the client's needs and values and evidence available to make decisions.

Nutrition-related diagnosis - A diagnosis within the scope of practice for a registered dietitian (RD) to diagnose and treat as defined by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

National Provider Identifier (NPI) – A system for uniquely identifying all Providers of health care services, supplies, and equipment.

Nutritional Counseling – See Medical Nutrition Therapy.

ProviderOne – Health Care Authority's primary provider payment processing system.

ProviderOne Client ID- A system-assigned number that uniquely identifies a single client within the ProviderOne system; the number consists of nine numeric characters followed by WA.

For example: 123456789WA.

Registered Dietitian (RD) – A dietitian registered with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and certified by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH).

Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Program - The United States Department of Agriculture Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) administered by the Department of Health. Direct client services are delivered by contracted local providers. WIC provides nutrition screening, nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion, health and social service referrals, and nutritious foods to pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants, and children through the end of the month they turn 5 years of age.

To be eligible, WIC clients must have:

- A nutrition-related health risk; and
- Income at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or be enrolled in Medicaid, Food Stamps, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs.

About the Program

What is the purpose of the medical nutrition therapy program?

The purpose of the medical nutrition therapy program is to ensure that clients have access to medically necessary outpatient medical nutrition therapy and associated follow-ups when:

- Provided by a registered dietitian (RD) meeting the provider requirements listed under [WAC 182-555-0400](#).
- Provided to eligible clients who are 20 years of age and younger with a referral from a physician, physician's assistant (PA), or an advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP).

Client Eligibility

Most Apple Health clients are enrolled in an agency-contracted managed care organization (MCO). This means that Apple Health pays a monthly premium to an MCO for providing preventative, primary, specialty, and other health services to Apple Health clients. Clients in managed care must see only providers who are in their MCO's provider network, unless prior authorized or to treat urgent or emergent care. See the agency's [Apple Health managed care page](#) for further details.

It is important to always check a client's eligibility prior to providing any services because it affects who will pay for the services.

Who is eligible for Medical Nutrition Therapy?

([WAC 182-555-0300](#))

Medical nutrition therapy is available to patients who are age 20 and younger and referred to a registered dietitian (RD) by a:

- Physician
- Physician Assistant (PA)
- Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP).

How do I verify a client's eligibility?

Check the client's Services Card or follow the two-step process below to verify that a client has Apple Health coverage for the date of service and that the client's benefit package covers the applicable service. This helps prevent delivering a service the agency will not pay for.

Is the client enrolled in an agency-contracted managed care organization (MCO), in a behavioral health organization (BHO), or is the client receiving services through fee-for-service (FFS) Apple Health?

Verifying eligibility is a two-step process:

Step 1. Verify the patient's eligibility for Apple Health. For detailed instructions on verifying a patient's eligibility for Apple Health, see the *Client Eligibility, Benefit Packages, and Coverage Limits* section in the agency's [ProviderOne Billing and Resource Guide](#).

If the patient is eligible for Apple Health, proceed to **Step 2**. If the patient is **not** eligible, see the note box below.

Step 2. Verify service coverage under the Apple Health client's benefit package. To determine if the requested service is a covered benefit under the Apple Health client's benefit package, see the agency's [Program Benefit Packages and Scope of Services](#) web page.

Note: Patients who are not Apple Health clients may submit an application for health care coverage in one of the following ways:

1. By visiting the Washington Healthplanfinder's website at: www.wahealthplanfinder.org
2. By calling the Customer Support Center toll-free at: 855-WAFINDER (855-923-4633) or 855-627-9604 (TTY)
3. By mailing the application to:
Washington Healthplanfinder
PO Box 946
Olympia, WA 98507

In-person application assistance is also available. To get information about in-person application assistance available in their area, people may visit www.wahealthplanfinder.org or call the Customer Support Center.

Are clients enrolled in an agency-contracted managed care organization (MCO) eligible?

([WAC 182-538-060](#), [WAC 182-538-095](#))

Yes. Many agency clients are enrolled in one of the agency's contracted managed care organizations (MCOs). For these clients, managed care enrollment will be displayed on the client benefit inquiry screen in ProviderOne.

Clients enrolled in an agency-contracted MCO must obtain services through their MCO, unless otherwise noted.

Note: A client's enrollment can change monthly. Providers who are not contracted with the MCO must receive approval from **both** the MCO and the client's primary care provider (PCP) prior to serving a managed care client.

Send claims to the client's MCO for payment. Call the client's MCO to discuss payment prior to providing the service. Providers may bill clients only in very limited situations as described under [WAC 182-502-0160](#).

Managed care enrollment

Apple Health (Medicaid) places clients into an agency-contracted MCO the same month they are determined eligible for managed care as a new or renewing client. This eliminates a person being placed temporarily in FFS while they are waiting to be enrolled in an MCO or reconnected with a prior MCO. This enrollment policy also applies to clients in FFS who have a change in the program they are eligible for.

New clients are those initially applying for benefits or those with changes in their existing eligibility program that consequently make them eligible for Apple Health managed care. Renewing clients are those who have been enrolled with an MCO but have had a break in enrollment and have subsequently renewed their eligibility.

Checking eligibility

- Providers must check eligibility and know when a client is enrolled and with which MCO. For help with enrolling, clients can refer to the Washington Healthplanfinder's [Get Help Enrolling](#) page.
- MCOs have retroactive authorization and notification policies in place. The provider must know the MCO's requirements and be compliant with the MCO's policies.

Behavioral Health Organization (BHO)

The Health Care Authority manages the contracts for behavioral health services (mental health and substance use disorder) for the following four Regional Service Areas (RSAs):

- **Great Rivers:** Includes Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Pacific, and Wahkiakum counties
- **North Sound:** Includes Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties
- **Salish:** Includes Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap counties
- **Thurston-Mason:** Includes Thurston and Mason counties

To view a map and table of the integrated managed care plans available within each region, please see [Changes coming to Washington Apple Health](#). You may also refer to the agency's [Apple Health managed care webpage](#).

See the agency's [Mental Health Services Billing Guide](#) for details.

Apple Health – Changes for January 1, 2019

Effective January 1, 2019, agency-contracted managed care organizations (MCOs) in certain Regional Services Areas (RSAs) will expand their coverage of behavioral health services (mental health and substance use disorder treatment), along with continuing to cover physical health services. The RSAs are outlined in the [Integrated Managed Care Regions](#) section.

Apple Health clients who are not enrolled in an agency-contracted MCO for their physical health services (e.g., dual-eligible Medicare-Medicaid clients) will still receive their behavioral health services through one of the agency-contracted MCOs. The MCO will provide only behavioral health services for the client.

Most clients will remain with the same health plan, except in regions where client's plan will no longer be available. HCA will auto-enroll these clients to one of the offered plans.

Clients can change their plan at any time by:

- Visiting the [ProviderOne Client Portal](#).
- Calling Apple Health Customer Service toll-free at 1-800-562-3022. This automated system is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Requesting a change online through our secure [Contact us – Apple Health \(Medicaid\) client web form](#). Select the topic “Enroll/Change Health Plans.”
- Visiting the [Washington Healthplanfinder](#) (only for clients with a Washington Healthplanfinder account).

Integrated managed care

For clients who live in an integrated managed care region, all physical health services, mental health services, and drug and alcohol treatment are covered and coordinated by the client's agency-contracted MCO. The BHO will not provide behavioral health services in these regions.

Clients living in an integrated managed care region will enroll with an MCO of their choice that is available in that region. If the client does not choose an MCO, the client will be automatically enrolled into one of the available MCOs, unless the client is American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN). Clients currently enrolled in one of the available MCOs in their region may keep their enrollment when the behavioral health services are added.

American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) clients living in an integrated managed care region of Washington may choose to enroll in one of the agency-contracted MCOs available in that region or they may choose to receive all these services through Apple Health FFS. If they do not choose an MCO, they will be automatically enrolled into Apple Health FFS for all their health care services, including comprehensive behavioral health services. See the agency's [American Indian/Alaska Native webpage](#).

For more information about the services available under the FFS program, see the agency's [Mental Health Services Billing Guide](#) and the [Substance Use Disorder Billing Guide](#).

For full details on integrated managed care, see the agency's [Changes to Apple Health managed care webpage](#).

Integrated managed care regions

Clients who reside in the following integrated managed care regions and who are eligible for managed care enrollment must choose an available MCO in their region. Details, including information about mental health crisis services, are located on the agency's [Apple Health managed care webpage](#).

Existing integrated managed care regions – Expanding January 1, 2019

- **North Central** (Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and Okanogan counties)
The agency expanded this region to include Okanogan County
- **Southwest Washington** (Clark, Klickitat, and Skamania counties)
The agency expanded this region to include Klickitat County

New integrated managed care regions – Effective January 1, 2019

The following new regions are implemented for integrated managed care:

- **Greater Columbia** (Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Kittitas, Walla Walla, Yakima, and Whitman counties)
- **King** (King County)
- **Pierce** (Pierce County)
- **Spokane** (Adams, Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, and Stevens counties)

Integrated Apple Health Foster Care (AHFC)

Effective January 1, 2019, children and young adults in the Foster Care, Adoption Support and Alumni programs who are enrolled in Coordinated Care of Washington’s (CCW) Apple Health Foster Care program will receive both medical and behavioral health services from CCW.

Clients under this program are:

- Under the age of 21 who are in foster care (out of home placement)
- Under the age of 21 who are receiving adoption support
- Age 18-21 years old in extended foster care
- Age 18 to 26 years old who aged out of foster care on or after their 18th birthday (alumni)

These clients are identified in ProviderOne as
“Coordinated Care Healthy Options Foster Care.”

Fee-for-service Apple Health Foster Care

Children and young adults in the fee-for-service Apple Health Foster Care, Adoption Support and Alumni programs receive behavioral health services through the regional Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (BH-ASO). For details, see the agency’s [Mental Health Services Billing Guide](#), under *How do providers identify the correct payer?*

Provider Requirements

Who may provide and bill for medical nutrition therapy?

([WAC 182-555-0400](#))

The agency pays for medical nutrition therapy services when delivered by a registered dietitian (RD).

Note: When billing the agency, the ~~dietitian's~~ RD's national provider identifier (NPI) must be entered in the:

- Billing Provider section of the **professional claim**; or
- Attending Physician Information section of the **institutional claim**.

Do not bill medical nutrition therapy and nondietitian professional services together on the same claim. These services must be billed separately.

When may providers bill the agency for medical nutrition therapy provided in WIC program locations?

Providers may bill the agency for medical nutrition therapy provided in Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program locations when the medical nutrition therapy is:

- Provided by a registered dietitian (RD) who has an NPI
- Not a WIC service or funded as a WIC service

Who can refer a client for medical nutrition therapy?

([WAC 182-555-0300](#))

Physicians, physician assistants (PA), or advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNP) providers may refer a client to a registered dietitian (RD) for medical nutrition therapy if there is a medical need for nutritional services including assessment, diagnosis, and treatment. Information concerning the medical need and the referral must be documented in the client's chart.

What are the responsibilities of the registered dietitian (RD) regarding the referral?

The registered dietitian (RD) must:

- Obtain all medical information necessary to do a comprehensive nutritional assessment
- Keep the primary medical care provider apprised of the assessment, prognosis, and progress of the client

Note: When billing the agency:

- The referring provider's national provider identifier (NPI) must be entered in the Referring Provider Information section of the professional claim; or
- In the Referring Physician section of the Other Claim Info on the institutional claim.

When does the agency cover telemedicine?

The agency covers telemedicine when it is used to substitute for an in-person face-to-face, hands-on encounter. Clients enrolled in an agency-contracted MCO must contact the MCO regarding whether or not the plan will authorize telemedicine coverage.

See the agency's [Physician-related Services/Health Care Professional Services Billing Guide](#) for further details.

Coverage/Fee Schedule

What is covered?

The agency covers the following procedure codes listed below.

CPT Code	Brief Description	Policy/Limits
97802	Medical nutrition, indiv, initial	1 unit=15 minutes Maximum of 2 hours (8 units) per year
97803	Medical nutrition, indiv, subseq	1 unit=15 minutes Maximum of 1 hour (4 units) per day
97804	Medical nutrition, group	1 unit=15 minutes Maximum of 1 hour (4 units) per day

Fee Schedule

You can find the [Medical Nutrition Therapy Fee Schedule](#) on the agency's Provider billing guides and fee schedules web page.

Billing

All claims must be submitted electronically to the agency, except under limited circumstances. For more information about this policy change, see [Paperless Billing at HCA](#). For providers approved to bill paper claims, see the agency's [Paper Claim Billing Resource](#).

What are the general billing requirements?

Providers must follow the agency [ProviderOne Billing and Resource Guide](#). These billing requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Time limits for submitting and resubmitting claims and adjustments.
- What fee to bill the agency for eligible clients.
- When providers may bill a client.
- How to bill for services provided to primary care case management (PCCM) clients.
- Billing for clients eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid.
- Third-party liability.
- Record keeping requirements.

Note: The agency does not pay for medical nutrition therapy services when billed on the same claim as nondietitian professional services.

Do not bill a physician office call and a medical nutrition therapy visit together on the same claim. These services must be billed separately.

What additional documentation must be kept when providing medical nutrition therapy?

[\(WAC 182-555-0600\)](#)

In addition to the health care record requirements found in [WAC 182-502-0020](#), the medical nutrition therapy provider must maintain the following documentation in the client's file:

- Referral from the provider
- The medical nutrition therapy provider assessment following the nutrition care process:
 - ✓ Nutrition assessment
 - ✓ Nutrition diagnosis, including the problem, etiology, signs, and symptoms (PES) statement
 - ✓ Nutrition intervention
 - ✓ Nutrition monitoring and evaluation.
- Any correspondence with the referring provider
- Information on associated medical conditions
- Information concerning the medical need

What additional information must be included in the enteral nutrition evaluation when clients are receiving enteral nutrition product paid for by the agency?

Include determination and documentation of the following:

- The amount of oral and/or enteral nutrition required; and
- The reason why traditional foods alone will not meet an individual's nutritional requirements.

See the current [Enteral Nutrition Provider Guide](#) for a list of criteria and modifiers.

How do I bill claims electronically?

Instructions on how to bill Direct Data Entry (DDE) claims can be found on the agency's [Billers and Providers](#) web page, under [Webinars](#).

For information about billing Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) claims, see the ProviderOne 5010 companion guides on the [HIPAA Electronic Data Interchange \(EDI\)](#) web page.

The following claim instructions relate to medical nutrition therapy:

Name	Entry	
Place of Service	Use the appropriate code(s):	
	Code #	To be used for
	11 12 22	Office Home Outpatient hospital
Units	Enter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 97802, not more than 8 units per year. • 97803, not more than 4 units per day. • 97804, not more than 4 units per day. 	