

North Carolina
State Health Plan
for Teachers and State Employees and
NC Health Choice for Children

www.shpnc.org

Dietary Supplements

Policy Number: AD0200

Active policy, not scheduled for routine review.

Definition:

Dietary supplements are especially formulated products designed to increase the amount of various food elements required to maintain proper physiological function of the body processes or to correct a deficiency which may exist.

Coverage:

Benefits are provided for dietary supplements received by inpatients in a hospital or skilled nursing facility if the cost of the supplement is included in the charge for accommodation and general nursing services. Only enteral nutrients that require a prescription are eligible for coverage when prescribed for patients with the following conditions:

- *Malabsorption syndrome
- *Certain short bowel syndromes
- *Crohn's disease
- *Severe pancreatitis

Approval Procedures:

Prior approval is not required.

Limitations and Exclusions:

1. Dietary supplements received by inpatients in a hospital or skilled nursing facility are covered only if the cost of the supplements are included in the charge for accommodation and general nursing services.
2. Dietary supplements prescribed on an outpatient basis for specific treatment of diseases, illnesses, or conditions are covered only if a doctor's prescription in accordance with the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act is required to purchase the supplement.
3. No other dietary supplements are covered.

Authority:

GS 135-42 (b)

GS 108A-70.21 (b)

G.S. 135-40.6(1) (statute effective through 6/30/08 for Predecessor Plan)

G.S. 135-40.6(3) (statute effective through 6/30/08 for Predecessor Plan)

G.S. 135-40.6(8)a (statute effective through 6/30/08 for Predecessor Plan)

G.S. 135-40.6(9) (statute effective through 6/30/08 for Predecessor Plan)

Complete Review of Policy:

December 1989

November 1994

March 2005

Revised:

December 2002

December 2008