



**BlueCross BlueShield  
of Illinois**

# Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois Provider Manual

## HMO Scope of Benefits Section

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, a Division of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company,  
an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

## Nutritional Supplements/Enteral Nutrition

### Benefit

Nutritional items are not a covered benefit. Such items include, but are not limited to, infant formula, weight-loss supplements, over-the-counter food substitutes, and liquid nutrition or high-calorie liquid nutrition products, with or without special formulation.

Enteral Nutrition is in benefit. Supplies and equipment for proper functioning and effective use of an Enteral Nutrition system is also in benefit.

### Interpretation

Nutritional supplements are dietary products that either substitute for or complement natural food.

### Nutritional Supplement Exception

As of Sept. 1, 2007, a new law (PA 95-520) was passed that required coverage for amino acid –based elemental formulas, regardless of the delivery method. The law is specific to the diagnosis and treatment of (1) eosinophilic disorders and (2) short – bowel syndrome when the prescribing physician has issued a written order stating the formula is medically necessary.

Enteral Nutrition (available only by physician’s prescription) is administered via a feeding tube. Enteral Nutrition may be necessary for a member with a functioning gastrointestinal tract who cannot eat because of difficulty swallowing, or because of structural problems in the head, neck, or thorax. Examples of these conditions are head and neck cancer and central nervous system disease leading to interference with the neuromuscular mechanisms of ingestion.

<b>Nutritional Supplements Paid by</b>	<b>Member (usually)</b>
	<b>HMO (if the above criteria for the exceptions listed above are met)</b>

**Note:** If a BCBSIL HMO Contracting Provider is used, the provider will most likely bill for the supplement. The IPA would follow the normal group approval process. If the member pays up front for the supplement, the member must forward bills to the HMO for reimbursement. In addition to the usual information, all claims submissions should include:

- Name of medical supplier
- Date(s) of purchase
- Type of nutritional supplement
- Purchase price
- Quantity
- IPA physician prescription or approval
- Diagnosis
- Receipt(s) verifying payment for supplies

<b>Enteral Nutrition Paid By</b>	Home Health, nutrients, supplies and equipment	<b>HMO</b>
	Professional Charges IPA	<b>IPA</b>