

Childhood Nutrition and Weight Management Services (CNWMS)

What Is Nutritional Counseling?

Nutrition counseling helps the child focus on proper nutrition and eating behaviors, so the child may achieve his or her weight management goals and maintain good health.

Who Can Provide Nutritional Counseling?

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.

Who Is Eligible for Nutritional Counseling?

All MA recipients under age 21 as per the Department of Human Services (DHS) MA Bulletin [01-18-09](#) Childhood Nutritional and Weight Management Services (CNWMS) for Recipients under 21 years of age.

1. Childhood Nutritional and Weight Management Services (CNWMS) for Recipients under 21 years of age ([MA Bulletin 01-18-09](#))

Weight management counseling services assist children to set behavioral goals and develop intervention techniques. GHP Family encourages weight management counseling providers to address topics relating to caloric intake and physical activity during the counseling sessions.

This program consists of specific services: initial assessment, reassessment, individual weight management counseling, family weight management counseling, group weight management counseling, and nutritional counseling. Providers are encouraged to ensure that the child has had a recent EPSDT screening or physical exam to help support any services covered under this policy.

- **Initial and Re-Assessments** – the initial assessment is completed to determine the need for CNWMS. The re-assessment gauges the progress made by the child in 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. The initial or re-assessment visit should routinely take the provider at least 30 minutes to complete.
- **Individual Weight Management Counseling**
Individual weight management counseling is provided to the individual child and is focused on the child's specific nutrition and weight management needs and goals.
- **Group Weight Management Counseling**
Group weight management counseling is provided to children in a group setting for at least two, but no more than 10 children. Group weight management counseling benefits members of the group by the interaction that occurs with other group members discussing the challenges surrounding weight management.

- **Family Weight Management Counseling**

Family weight management counseling is provided to the child and other members of the child’s family. Family weight management counseling focuses on the development of family weight management goals and behaviors to maximize the child’s goals, strategies and eating behaviors. The child must be present during the family weight management counseling session.

2. Billing CNWMS

The Department will make payment to physicians, CRNPs, registered nurses, nutritionists, outpatient hospitals, independent medical surgical clinics, FQHCs and RHCs enrolled in the MA Program for specific CNWMS when the services are medically necessary and rendered to MA beneficiaries under 21 years of age who are overweight, obese or experiencing weight management problems. Providers must document the medical necessity for any CNWMS in the child’s medical record, in accordance with 55 Pa. Code § 1101.51 (relating to ongoing responsibilities of providers). No referral or prior authorization is required for CNWMS.

- Physicians, CRNPs, outpatient hospital clinics, independent medical surgical clinics, FQHCs and RHCs enrolled in the MA Program may bill for initial assessments and re-assessments.
- Physicians, CRNPs, registered nurses, outpatient hospital clinics, independent medical surgical clinics, FQHCs and RHCs enrolled in the MA Program may bill for individual, group and family weight management counseling.
- Nutritionists enrolled in the MA Program may bill for nutritional counseling. Outpatient hospital clinics, FQHCs and RHCs enrolled in the MA Program may bill for nutritional counseling performed by a licensed dietitian-nutritionist employed by the facility.

When billing for the initial assessment and re-assessment, providers should include on their claim form the appropriate ICD-10-CM diagnosis code in conjunction with the accompanying Z-code from the tables below:

E66.01	Morbid (severe) obesity due to excess calories
E66.09	Other obesity due to excess calories
E66.1	Drug-induced obesity
E66.2	Morbid (severe) obesity with alveolar hypoventilation
E66.3	Overweight
E66.8	Other obesity
E66.9	Obesity, unspecified
Z68.54	BMI => 95 th percentile of above
Z68.53	BMI 85 th < 95 th percentile
Z68.52	BMI 5 th < 85 th percentile

CPT Code	Code Description	Pricing Modifier	Informational Modifier
----------	------------------	------------------	------------------------

96156	Health behavior assessment, or re-assessment (ie, health-focused clinical interview, behavioral observations, clinical decision making)	U3- for assessment; no modifier for re-assessment	TJ
96158	Health behavior intervention, individual, face-to-face; initial 30 minutes	U3	TJ
96159	Health behavior intervention, individual, face-to-face; each additional 15 minutes (List separately in addition to code for primary service)	U3	TJ
96164	Health behavior intervention, individual, face-to-face; each additional 15 minutes (List separately in addition to code for primary service)		TJ
96165	Health behavior intervention, group (2 or more patients), face-to-face; each additional 15 minutes (List separately in addition to code for primary service)		TJ
96167	Health behavior intervention, family (with the patient present), face-to-face; initial 30 minutes		TJ
96168	Health behavior intervention, family (with the patient present), face-to-face; each additional 15 minutes (List separately in addition to code for primary service)		TJ
S9470	Nutritional counseling, dietitian visit	U3	TJ
T1015	*** Clinic visit defined as= Health behavior assessment (ie, health-focused clinical interview, behavioral observations, clinical decision making)		TJ
T1015	*** Clinic visit defined as= Health behavior reassessment (ie, health-focused clinical interview, behavioral observations, clinical decision making)		TS
T1015	***Clinic visit defined as= Health behavior intervention, individual, face-to-face		TJ,TS
T1015	***Clinic visit defined as= Health behavior intervention, group (2 or more patients), face-to-face;		TT
T1015	***Clinic visit defined as= Health behavior intervention, family (with the patient present), face-to-face		HR
T1015	***Clinic visit defined as= Nutritional Counseling, dietitian visit		AE

Pregnant recipients enrolled in the Healthy Beginnings Plus program

Nutritional counseling is covered under the Healthy Beginnings Plus (HBP) program when provided by a HBP provider and member. There is no limit on the number of counseling services and prior authorization is not required.

CPT Code	Code Description	Pricing Modifier	Informational Modifier
S9470	Nutritional counseling, dietitian visit	U7	HD

3. Payment Limitations

Payment limitations for CNWMS are as follows:

- 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 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. A re-assessment is at least 30 minutes in duration per re-assessment.
- FQHCs and RHCs may bill the MA Program for one medical visit per child per day for CNWMS.