



## MEDICARE QUALIFYING COVERAGE CRITERIA FOR TOTAL PARENTERAL NUTRITION

Please note the following information was taken from the Region C DMEPOS Supplier Manual. The manual details Medicare's guidelines for parenteral therapy.

### TPN QUALIFYING CHECKLIST

#### GENERAL CRITERIA

If NO is answered to the following questions, the patient does not meet the GENERAL CRITERIA and claims will be denied at entry level.

1. **YES NO** The patient has permanent impairment (at least 3 months)
2. **YES NO** The patient has (A) a condition involving the small intestine and/or its exocrine glands which significantly impairs the absorption of nutrients or (B) disease of the stomach and/or intestine which is a motility disorder and impairs the ability of nutrients to be transported through the GI system. There must be objective evidence supporting the clinical diagnosis.
3. **YES NO** A concerted effort was made to place a tube
4. **YES NO** A trial with enteral nutrition was made, with appropriate attention to dilution, rate, and alternative formulas to address the side effects of diarrhea.

In addition to the above questions, patients **MUST** meet the following core coverage criteria in order to qualify for Medicare.

#### CORE COVERAGE CRITERIA

Maintenance of weight and strength commensurate with the patient's overall health must necessitate IV nutrition and cannot otherwise be managed by:

1. **YES NO** Modifying the nutrient composition of the enteral diet (e.g. lactose-free, gluten-free low in long chain triglycerides, substitution with medium chain triglycerides, provision of protein as peptides or amino acids, etc.), **and**
2. **YES NO** Utilizing pharmacologic means to treat the etiology of the malabsorption (e.g. pancreatic enzymes or bile salts, broad spectrum antibiotics for bacterial overgrowth, prokinetic medication for reduced motility, etc.)

#### SUPPORTING CRITERIA

Criteria and Core Coverage Criteria. Parenteral Nutrition will be

- A. **YES NO** The patient has undergone recent (within the past three months) massive small bowel resection leaving 5 feet or less of small bowel beyond the ligament of Treitz, or
- B. **YES NO** The patient has a short bowel syndrome that is severe enough that the patient has net gastrointestinal fluid and electrolyte malabsorption such that on an oral intake of 2.5-3 liters/day the enteral losses exceed 50% of the oral/enteral intake and the urine output is < 1 liter/day, or
- C. **YES NO** The patient requires bowel rest for at least three months and is receiving intravenously 20-35 cal/kg/day for treatment of
  - 1. Symptomatic pancreatitis with/without pancreatic pseudocyst, or
  - 2. Severe exacerbation of regional enteritis, or
  - 3. A proximal enterocutaneous fistula where tube feeding distal to the fistula isn't possible, or
- D. **YES NO** The patient has complete mechanical small bowel obstruction where surgery is not an option, or
- E. **YES NO** The patient is significantly malnourished as evidenced by:
  - 1. 10% weight loss over 3 months or less and
  - 2. Serum albumin is less than or equal to 3.4 gm/DL and
  - 3. Severe fat malabsorption
- F. **YES NO** The patient is significantly malnourished as evidenced by:
  - 1. 10% weight loss over 3 months or less and
  - 2. Serum albumin is less than or equal to 3.4 gm/DL and
  - 3. Severe motility disturbance of the small intestine and/or stomach which is unresponsive to prokinetic medication and is demonstrated either scintigraphically or radiographically.

Patients who do not meet criteria A-F above must meet core coverage criteria 1-2 above (modification of diet and pharmacologic intervention) plus criteria G and H below:

- G. **YES NO** The patient is malnourished
  - 1. 10% weight loss over 3 months or less and
  - 2. Serum albumin is less than or equal to 3.4 gm/DL and
- H. **YES NO** A disease and clinical condition has been documented as being present and it has not responded to altering the manner of delivery of appropriate nutrients, (e.g. slow infusion of nutrients through a tube with the tip located in the stomach or jejunum.)