

**INLAND EMPIRE HIV PLANNING COUNCIL STANDARDS OF CARE
RIVERSIDE / SAN BERNARDINO TRANSITIONAL GRANT AREA
RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS PROGRAM**

MEDICAL NUTRITION THERAPY

This document offers a limited set of focused standards addressing key aspects specific to this service category. Other relevant standards, including the Common Standards, as well as other policies, recommendations and guidelines should be referenced in conjunction with this standard.

Purpose of Standards

These service and care standards are prescribed by the Inland Empire HIV Planning Council (IEHPC). The purpose of these standards is to establish a minimum set of quality expectations to ensure uniformity of service funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) under the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program legislation across the Riverside/San Bernardino Transitional Grant Area (R/SB TGA).

These standards are to be monitored and enforced by means of incorporation into service provision contracts managed by the Ryan White Program (RWP) Office on behalf of the IEHPC, as provided by the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program legislation and HRSA policies, guidance, and other requirements.

Definition of Service (HRSA)

***Medical Nutrition Therapy Services** include nutrition education and counseling provided by a licensed registered dietician pursuant to a medical provider's referral. Nutritional services are based on a nutritional plan resulting from nutrition assessment/screening and dietary/nutritional evaluation. Food and/or nutritional supplements may also be provided per medical provider's recommendation. These services can be provided in individual and/or group settings and outside of HIV Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services.*

I. Care and Treatment Goal(s)

The provision of "Medical Nutrition Therapy" in the R/SB TGA is intended to maintain and optimize nutrition status and nutritional self-management skills for the purpose of treating HIV disease.

Service Goal

The overall goal of Medical Nutrition Therapy services is to optimize nutrition status, prevent the development of nutrient deficiencies, promote attainment and maintenance of optimal body weight and composition, and maximize effectiveness of HIV medications/treatment.

A. Service Objectives

1. To provide nutrition intervention based on the nutrition assessment and care plan and provide training in nutritional self-management.

B. Description of Services

Service Components

1. Initial nutrition assessment and screening, including dietary/nutritional evaluation. Assessments/evaluations should be conducted periodically to assess changes.
2. Nutrition care plan signed and dated by the dietician; updated annually or more frequently, if necessary. Plan must include, at a minimum:
 - Recommended services and course of medical nutrition therapy to be provided, including types and amounts of nutritional supplements and food.
 - Date service is initiated
 - Planned number and frequency of sessions
 - Signature of registered dietician who developed the plan
3. Food and/or nutritional supplements per medical provider's recommendation.
4. Nutrition education and/or counseling in individual and/or group settings.
5. Service documentation must also include:
 - Referral from medical provider
 - Date of reassessments
 - Termination date of medical nutrition therapy
 - Any recommendations for follow-up
 - Quantity of nutritional supplements/food provided and dates distributed (if applicable)

C. Limitations

1. All services performed under this service category must be pursuant to a medical provider's referral and based on a nutritional plan developed by the registered. Medical provider = physician, surgeon, osteopath, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, or dentist.
2. If food supplements are provided under this service category, documentation must be maintained that includes a physician's recommendation for food/supplements.

III. Service-Specific Staff Qualifications

This service must be provided by a Registered Dietician.

IV. Exceptions and Emergent Need

Please refer to the Common Standards of Care for guidance concerning exceptions and Emergent Need.

V. Reportable Units of Service and Financial Eligibility

Please refer to the current service contract for a description of the unit of service and financial eligibility thresholds for each service category.