

Guidelines for Reviewing Diet Supplements

Diet supplements assist recipients to meet costs associated with an unusually expensive therapeutic diet that is required as a result of a specific medical condition or a special dietary need as confirmed by a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner or a registered dietitian.

The need for a diet supplement can be due to either an acute (short term) or chronic (long term) medical condition. As dietary needs and medical conditions can change, it is necessary for the EAW to complete regular reviews to confirm a client's continued eligibility. However, in some circumstances updated documentation from the client may not be necessary. These guidelines have been developed to assist regional staff with:

- 1) Completing eligibility reviews and establishing review dates; and
- 2) Determining circumstances where the requirement for updated documentation can be waived.

Establishing review dates and completing eligibility reviews

Upon initial approval, the EAW must assign a review date for the diet supplement. Review dates should be based on the expected duration of the medical condition or specific dietary need. To establish the appropriate review date, the length of time indicated on the medical documentation should be used as a guide in conjunction with Table 1 (see attached). Generally speaking, chronic (long term) conditions can be assigned review dates up to 2 years, while acute (short term) conditions are limited to a maximum of 1 year.

Three months prior to the review date, the EAW will receive notification via MIS (Financial Worker Review Report – MI137-02) identifying those clients whose diet supplement is scheduled for review. In order to confirm continued eligibility and to determine if there is a need for updated documentation, the following should be examined when performing a diet supplement review:

- the original medical documentation supporting the request for the diet supplement (review diagnosis/medical condition, special dietary need and expected duration indicated);
- any documentation on file with the ministry that could contain medical information that would support the request for the diet supplement (e.g.: PWD application, PPMB application, etc); and
- any medical documentation recently received for other ministry supplements that would indicate the status of the recipient's medical condition and support a continued need for a diet supplement (e.g.: documentation to support a request for a medical transportation supplement for ongoing cancer treatment).

Requirement for updated medical documentation

Once the review of the existing medical documentation has been completed and if the need for the diet supplement is determined to be a result of a chronic, ongoing medical condition, no updated documentation should be required and the review date can be reset for 2 years. Refer to Table 1 for a list of medical conditions where the need for updated medical documentation can be waived.

If the need for the diet supplement was due to an acute, short term medical condition, and no current information on file supports the continued need, the EAW must contact the client to both confirm continued need and request updated medical documentation by sending the client a Diet Supplement Review letter (EIA3138). Follow up may be required by telephone if the client does not provide the requested information. Upon receipt of the updated medical information, the EAW must assess eligibility and set up an appropriate review date based on the submitted documentation.

Advising clients of denial or discontinuance of a diet supplement

If there is no longer a confirmed need for the diet supplement or the client does not provide the requested updated medical documentation, the EAW must send the client a Diet Assistance Denial letter (EIA3139) informing them of the denial or discontinuance of the diet supplement and enclosing the Reconsideration and Appeals brochure.

Table 1

Diet Supplement	Associated medical condition(s)	Duration of medical condition or dietary need	Requirement for updated documentation at review
High Protein Diet (\$65 per month)	Cancer requiring nutritional support <u>during</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> radiation chemotherapy surgical therapy or ongoing medical treatment 	Acute (e.g.: treatable cancers)	Updated documentation may be required to confirm client is still undergoing therapy or treatment
		Chronic (e.g.: end stage or terminal cancers)	Waived
	Chronic inflammatory bowel disease	Chronic	Waived
	Crohn's disease	Chronic	Waived
	Ulcerative colitis	Chronic	Waived
	HIV + diagnosis	Chronic	Waived
	AIDS	Chronic	Waived
	Chronic bacterial infection (e.g.: lung or urinary tract infections, bed sores or pressure ulcers)	Acute	As infection may be treatable, updated documentation should be obtained to confirm continued need
		Chronic	
	Tuberculosis	Acute	As condition is treatable, updated documentation should be obtained to confirm continued need
		Chronic	
	Hyperthyroidism	Acute	As condition may be treatable, updated documentation should be obtained to confirm continued need
		Chronic	
	Hepatitis B	Acute	As there are treatments available, updated documentation may be required to confirm continued need
		Chronic	
Hepatitis C	Acute	As there are treatments available, updated documentation may be required to confirm continued need	
	Chronic		
Osteoporosis	Chronic	Waived	
Restricted sodium diet (\$15 per month)	A restricted sodium diet can be prescribed due to a variety of medical conditions (e.g.: high blood pressure, heart, kidney or liver problems)	Acute	If medical professional identifies as short term, updated documentation should be obtained to confirm continued need
		Chronic	Waived - if medical condition identified as chronic or indefinite

Diet Supplement	Associated medical condition(s)	Duration of medical condition or dietary need	Requirement for updated documentation at review
Diabetic diet (\$60 per month)	Diabetes	Chronic	Waived
Kidney Dialysis diet (\$50 per month)	Acute kidney failure (e.g.: due to injury or trauma to kidneys or severe infection)	Acute	As dialysis may only be needed until the kidneys recover, updated medical documentation should be obtained for acute cases.
	Chronic or end stage kidney failure	Chronic	Waived – unless person undergoes kidney transplant surgery
Gluten-free diet (\$65 per month)	Celiac disease or dermatitis herpetiformis	Chronic	Waived
Diet for dysphagia (difficulty swallowing) (\$65 per month)	Dysphagia is caused by a variety of medical conditions (e.g.: Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), stroke, esophageal tumours, MS, CP or spinal cord injury)	Acute	Updated documentation may be required to confirm client is still in need if approved for a temporary condition
		Chronic	Waived for chronic or end stage diseases
Diet for Cystic Fibrosis (\$80 per month)	Cystic Fibrosis	Chronic	Waived
Ketogenic diet (\$65 per month)	Refractory Epilepsy (difficult to control)	Chronic	Waived
Low Phenylalanine diet (\$65 per month)	Phenylketonuria (PKU)	Chronic	Waived