

SB200 FTR

January 31, 2014

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The Medical Advisory Panel of the American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders (APFED) strongly supports legislation that mandates consistent coverage and reimbursement for Medical Foods or formulas prescribed by a physician for specific chronic medical conditions in children and adults. We support the American Academy of Pediatrics policy statement on 'Reimbursement for Foods for Special Dietary Use.' "Medical Food" means a food which is formulated to be consumed or administered enterally under the supervision of a physician and which is intended for the specific dietary management of a disease or condition for which distinctive nutritional requirements, based on recognized scientific principles, are established by medical evaluation.

As the Medical Advisory Panel for APFED, a patient advocacy group supporting those living with eosinophil-associated gastrointestinal disease such as eosinophilic esophagitis, gastritis, gastroenteritis and colitis (collectively known as "EGIDs"), we recognize the importance of specialized formulas in the treatment of EGIDs. EGIDs affect more than 52 per 100,000 individuals in the United States. For many of those patients, proper nutritional therapy is critical to achieving good health, and may in some instances be more important than prescription medications. These specialized elemental formulas (amino acid based formulas) are the sole treatment for certain individuals with EGID, and for some individuals provide the major source of nutrition because of their inability to tolerate a normal diet resulting in extremely limited dietary (caloric) intake. Elemental formulas are designed to provide complete nutritional support for patients. A subset of these patients requires long-term medical therapy with amino acid based formulas.

Medical Foods are a medical therapy and therefore should be covered as would any other medication, procedure or device. Health insurance policy that is delivered, issued for delivery, renewed, extended or modified in a particular state by any health care insurer and that provides coverage for a child or adult should optimally provide coverage of Medical Foods for physician prescribed dietary use as an accepted medical benefit.

Sincerely,

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