

Medicaid MNT Coverage Information by State:

MARYLAND

*Disclaimer: Information contained in this document was originally gathered in Spring 2023 and made available to provide basic information to assist RDNs in identifying Medicaid coverage in a given state. A review and update were conducted in February 2025. The information contained in this document is not a guarantee by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics as to the current accuracy of the information contained herein. For example, coverage information, reimbursement rates, and links may not be accurate given ongoing updates to state programs.

Traditional Fee for Service Medicaid

Medicaid is a crucial government program in the United States, providing essential healthcare coverage for low-income individuals and families. Traditional Medicaid offers a comprehensive array of medical services, including doctor visits, hospital stays, prescription drugs, and more, to eligible individuals, such as children, pregnant women, the elderly, and people with disabilities. While all state Medicaid programs must cover mandatory benefits, states have the autonomy to determine additional medical services, tailoring healthcare to their specific populations. This flexibility enables states to address unique healthcare needs. Eligibility rules differ by state.

Medicaid Expansion

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) called for states to expand Medicaid coverage to additional low-income adults (up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level) who previously were ineligible. States that have expanded Medicaid receive additional funding from the government to support their Medicaid programs. By allowing more lower incomes individuals into the Medicaid program, states are able to further support enhanced healthcare access, promote preventive care, and alleviate the burden of uncompensated care on hospitals and taxpayers.

Medicaid Managed Care

The majority of Medicaid beneficiaries nationwide receive Medicaid program health care services through Medicaid Managed Care Programs. A state will contract with various types of Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to deliver services to their beneficiaries. By utilizing an MCO, the state is able to provide additional flexibility in the delivery of services that is not allowable under the traditional Fee for Service Medicaid model. These models often provide a more integrated and person-centered approach to service delivery as well as cost savings. The State Medicaid program will either directly contract with an MCO or will utilize an administrator service to manage MCO contracts.

MCOs providing benefits under the state Medicaid Plan, at a minimum, must provide the same level of service offered via the state's traditional fee-for-service Medicaid plan. MNT may be a covered service and RDNs may be recognized providers. However, each RDN must contact each plan individually to apply to become a provider and must negotiate their individual provider contract terms to include desired MNT coverage details. Because covered benefits periodically change, coverage needs to be verified before providing services.

Medicaid Waivers

Medicaid State Waivers, including Section 1115 demonstrations (which encompass In Lieu of Services (ILOS)) and Section 1915 waivers (covering Home and Community-Based Services or HCBS), allow states to innovate in healthcare delivery and financing within Medicaid and CHIP. Section 1115 waivers test new care models to improve outcomes, while Section 1915 waivers offer cost-effective alternatives to standard services, expanding care options for beneficiaries. These waivers have the potential to significantly impact nutrition care by integrating services like Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) and food assistance programs, thereby improving access for vulnerable populations and enhancing health outcomes through more comprehensive, patient-centered care.

TABLE

Instructions for Understanding the Table:

- **Purpose:** The table below presents findings from the Academy’s Medicaid Mapping Project, summarizing the status of nutrition services provision in state Medicaid programs.
 - **Data Collection:** The information reflects a review of state-level policies and regulations as of June 2023. A review and update were conducted in February 2025.
 - **Interpreting the Cells:**
 - **Filled Cells:** These contain specific information or language related to the provision of nutrition services in Medicaid programs as found in state documents.
 - **Blank Cells:** If a cell is blank, it means that the reviewed documents did not include relevant language. Interpret these blank cells with caution, as they may indicate either an absence of related policies or insufficient documentation.
 - **Note:** This table serves as a snapshot of the available data at the time of review and may not capture subsequent changes or updates.
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Traditional Fee-For-Service Medicaid

State: MD	Dietitian Provider Enrollment	Dietitian provides independent services or incident to	Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT)	Nutrition Counseling, Dietitian visit (S9470)	Prior Authorization required to determine Medical Necessity	Referral, prescription, order (by physician, NP, or other) required
FFS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, with limitations <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Independent <input type="checkbox"/> Incident to <input type="checkbox"/> None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 97802 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 97803 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 97804	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Adults	Yes	Independent	Nutritionally high-risk pregnant women of all ages Other adults excluded	No	No	Unknown
Children	Yes	Independent	Nutritionally high-risk children under the age of 21 years	No	No	Nutrition counseling provided by licensed nutritionists and dietitians covered when referred for diagnosis or treatment as a result of a full or partial EPSDT screen.
Other					While preauthorization is not required under FFS Medicaid, the state expects that a quarterly care plan will be shared with the participant's primary care provider.	

NOTES:

"Provider" means an entity, facility, person or group who is enrolled in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, renders services to participants, and bills the Program for those services. Under the Program, providers that use a subset of procedure codes found in the Professional Services Provider Manual and Fee Schedule include Nutritionists.

The Nutrition Therapy Program covers medically necessary counseling and education services provided by appropriately qualified staff. For nutritionists and dietitians they must be licensed by the Maryland State Board of Dietetic Practice, as defined in Health Occupations Article, Title 5, Annotated Code of Maryland, or by the appropriate licensing body in the jurisdiction where the nutrition counseling services are performed. Services must be directly related to a written treatment plan. Limited to 1 visit per day. Excludes services provided by a school health-related services provider that are not included on a child's IEP or IFSP. For OB, prenatal and postpartum services maximum number of units for 97802 and 97803 is 4 and for 97804 is 1.

Managed Care Medicaid

State: MD Managed Care	Dietitian Provider Enrollment <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, with limitations <input type="checkbox"/> No	Dietitian provides independent services or incident to <input type="checkbox"/> Independent <input type="checkbox"/> Incident to <input type="checkbox"/> None	Medical Nutrition Therapy <input type="checkbox"/> 97802 <input type="checkbox"/> 97803 <input type="checkbox"/> 97804	Nutrition Counseling, Dietitian visit (S9470) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Prior Authorization required to determine Medical Necessity <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Referral, prescription, order (by physician, NP, or other) required <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Adults					Contact MCO for enrollees receiving home health and inpatient services	
Children					Contact MCO	
Other					Contact the MCO for information regarding their billing and preauthorization procedures for nutrition services for participants who are under the age of 21, or who are receiving home health and inpatient services.	

NOTES:

Licensed, certified, or otherwise legally authorized to practice dietitian-nutritionists can provide services to participants in the Rare and Expensive Case Management (REM) Program.

The HealthChoice Managed Care Organization agreement defines nutritional counseling as the review of the patient's nutritional status and advice on its improvement when medically necessary and includes family education provided by either a licensed dietitian or licensed nutritionist.

Medicaid managed care benefits cover pregnancy-related services that include enriched maternity services that encompass basic nutritional education and high-risk nutrition counseling services for nutritionally high-risk pregnant women.

More Medicaid Information for Providers

General

[Maryland Medicaid State Plan Attachment 3.1A Page 19-1
2022 Maryland Medical Assistance Program Professional Services Provider Manual](#)

Telehealth

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/practice/telehealth-for-dietetics-practitioners>

Medicaid Managed Care Program Name(s) and Website

HealthChoice

Website:

[https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/healthchoice/pages/home.aspx#:~:text=Welco
me%20to%20HealthChoice%20Maryland%20Medicaid's%20managed%20care%2
0program.](https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/healthchoice/pages/home.aspx#:~:text=Welco%20to%20HealthChoice%20Maryland%20Medicaid's%20managed%20care%20program.)

Current Medicaid Waivers

Search State Waivers List at: [Medicaid.gov](https://www.medicaid.gov)

State Licensure of Dietitians

[MD Statutes](#)
