



# HEALTHCARE NUTRITION COUNCIL

Improving outcomes through awareness and action

June 10, 2020

## **RE: COVID-19 Extension of 30-Day Supply of Enteral Nutrition to Medicare Beneficiaries**

Dear Healthcare Suppliers and Providers,

The Healthcare Nutrition Council (HNC)<sup>1</sup> is writing to share our perspectives and request for collaboration regarding the recent [Medicare decision](#) to allow beneficiaries to obtain enteral nutrition (EN) products beyond the 30-day supply in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

HNC is committed to ensuring all patients have access to medically necessary products and we especially recognize how important these products are during this global pandemic. There is currently no shortage of EN products to meet patient needs. Manufacturers are working hard to ensure production is able to continue to meet demand during these difficult times. At this time, we are not aware of any disruptions in patient care or patients' inability to access EN product. We would like to continue to maintain this access. We are asking suppliers and providers to carefully consider individual patient needs, prior to dispensing EN product beyond 30 days unless the written order by the prescriber indicates the patient needs an extended supply due to being at high-risk or in quarantine due to COVID-19.

Please keep communication lines open with your respective manufacturer if there is a request for EN product beyond the 30-day supply to help ensure production can meet demand and prevent interruptions in the supply chain. If you have any questions, please contact Berit Dockter MPP, RD, LD at [bdockter@kellencompany.com](mailto:bdockter@kellencompany.com) or 202-207-1112.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Rankin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Rankin  
Executive Director

---

<sup>1</sup> HNC is an association representing manufacturers of EN formulas and oral nutrition supplements (ONS), parenteral nutritional (PN) formulas, supplies and equipment. HNC members are committed to improving health by advancing policies that address and raise awareness of the impacts of nutrition on health outcomes and healthcare costs. This includes promoting nutritional screenings, diagnoses, assessments and appropriate and timely nutrition interventions while protecting patients' access to EN and PN products and services throughout the continuum of care. HNC members are Abbott Nutrition, B. Braun Medical Inc., Nestle Healthcare Nutrition, and Nutricia North America.