

HNC Hill Day – Legislative Priorities

Who is HNC?

HNC is an association representing manufacturers ^[1] of enteral nutrition (EN) formulas and oral nutrition supplements (ONS), including those categorized as medical foods, and parenteral nutrition (PN). HNC's mission is to improve patient outcomes by advancing nutrition policies and actions that raise awareness and optimize access for people who require or benefit from advanced and specialized nutrition. Visit HNC's website at www.healthcarenutrition.org.

^[1] **HNC members are** Abbott Nutrition, Nestle Health Science, and Nutricia North America.

Improve Access to Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT Act)

Bill Summary: [S.3924](#) / [H.R. 6199](#) expands Medicare Part B coverage of outpatient medical nutrition therapy beyond diabetes and kidney disease to include prediabetes, obesity, hypertension, dyslipidemia, malnutrition, eating disorders, cancer, gastrointestinal diseases, including Celiac disease, HIV, AIDS, and cardiovascular disease. The bill extends those who may refer to MNT services including physician's assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, or clinical psychologists.

Why It Matters: According to the Alliance for Aging Research, malnutrition costs the U.S. healthcare system over \$156.7 billion annually. Coverage for registered dietitian counseling helps reduce costly hospitalizations and improves chronic disease management.

HNC's Ask: Support and cosponsor the MNT Act to help lower healthcare costs and improve care quality.

Help Ensure Patient Access to Medical Foods (Medical Foods & Formulas Access Act)

Bill Summary: [S.3304](#) / [H.R. 5684](#) guarantees Medicare and Medicaid coverage of medically necessary food, vitamins, and amino acids for patients with inherited metabolic and digestive disorders (formerly called MNEA).

Why It Matters: These life-sustaining products are standard-of-care treatments. Without coverage, patients may face malnutrition, cognitive impairment, and repeated hospitalizations. Families often pay hundreds of dollars monthly out-of-pocket for these products.

HNC's Ask: Support and cosponsor S. 3304 / H.R. 5684 equitable access to medically necessary foods.

Support DMEPOS Relief / Competitive Bidding Fix

Bill Summary: The Competitive Bidding Relief Act ([S. 2951](#)) / DMEPOS Relief Act of 2025 ([H.R. 2005](#)) extends fair Medicare payment rates for durable medical equipment, including enteral nutrition (EN) formula and supplies.

Why It Matters: Enteral nutrition formulas are as essential as oxygen or dialysis. Reimbursement cuts threaten patient access and supplier stability.

HNC's Ask: Support and cosponsor S. 2951 / H.R. 2005 to protect patient access and supplier stability.

Strengthen the Food Is Medicine (FIM) Framework with ONS Language

Bill Summary: [S. 2834](#) / [H.R. 5439](#) establishes a six-year nationwide Medicare pilot to provide medically tailored meals (MTM) for seniors with diet related diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, and COPD.

Why It Matters: ONS are regulated as foods for special dietary use, often prescribed with meals, and serve as sole-source nutrition for some patients.

HNC's Ask: Add one clarifying sentence in FIM bills to explicitly recognize ONS.

- Allow oral nutrition supplements to be utilized with medically tailored home-delivered meals.
 - **Example 1:** MTM 118th S. 2133 - Include qualified individuals that *"have a need for oral nutrition supplements to be utilized with home delivered meals."*
 - **Example 2:** Food for Health Act 118th H.R. 10124 - Funds within the Food is Medicine Pilot Program, should include *"providing non-conventional food options to address special dietary needs, including foods for "special dietary use," as defined in section 411(c)(3) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 350(c)(3)), that include nutritionally complete foods intended as a meal replacement."*

Contact Information: Jordan Marshall MPH, Director of Government Affairs, jmarshall@healthcarenutrition.org