Support the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2025 (S. 3924/H.R. 6199)

The Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) Act would expand Medicare coverage for medical nutrition therapy services. Currently, Medicare covers such services for individuals with diabetes or kidney disease that are provided by a registered dietitian or nutrition professional pursuant to a physician's referral. The bill extends coverage to individuals with other diseases and conditions and expands the parties that may refer patients to MNT services, including physician's assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, or clinical psychologists.

The MNT Act would cover:

- Diabetes and prediabetes
- Renal disease
- Obesity
- Hypertension
- Dyslipidemia
- Malnutrition
- Eating disorders
- Cancer
- Gastrointestinal diseases, including celiac disease
- HIV
- AIDS
- Cardiovascular disease
- Any other disease or condition specified by the Secretary

The Healthcare Nutrition Council (HNC) is an association representing manufacturers of enteral nutrition (EN) formulas and oral nutrition supplements (ONS), including those categorized as medical foods, and parenteral nutrition (PN).

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Why support the bill?

- MNT is an evidence-based, cost-effective component of treatment that can help combat many of the nation's most prevalent and costly chronic conditions.
- HNC supports improved patient access to nutrition counseling through MNT provided by a registered dietitian nutritionist. We especially support inclusion of **malnutrition** in this bill.
- According to the CDC, tragically, the national deaths related to **malnutrition** have doubled from 9,300 deaths in 2018 to 20,500 deaths in 2022. The financial costs of **malnutrition** are substantial in the United States; hospital-acquired conditions, readmissions, and prolonged lengths of stay are reported to cost as much as $150 billion per year.
- Minority populations have long faced chronic disease health disparities due to socioeconomic inequalities and reduced access to health care, healthy foods, and safe places to be active. The compounding impacts of systemic inequalities, food insecurity, reduced access to care, and COVID-19 complications, underscore the need to provide equitable access to medical nutrition therapy in Medicare.

[1]Kaiser Health News. U.S. Malnutrition Deaths Have More Than Doubled. U.S. News and World Report. April 13, 2023. Retrieved from: https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2023-04-13/deaths-from-malnutrition-have-more-than-doubled-in-the-u-s#:~:text=By%20Phillip%20Reese%20%7C%20KFF%20Health%20News&text=The%20same%20trend%20occurred%20nationwide,for%20Disease%20Control%20and% 20Prevention.
[2]Meehan, Anita, et al. "Clinical and Economic Value of Nutrition in Healthcare: A Nurse's Perspective." Nutrition in Clinical Practice, vol. 34, no. 6, 2019, pp. 832–38, https://doi.org/10.1002/ncp.10405.

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