

MEDICAL POLICY



SUBJECT: MEDICAL/ NON-SURGICAL WEIGHT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS and SERVICES	EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/02/99 REVISED DATE: 02/28/02, 04/24/03, 05/27/04, 04/28/05, 04/27/06, 04/26/07, 08/23/07, 08/28/08 ARCHIVED DATE: 08/27/09 EDITED DATE: 08/26/10, 08/25/11, 08/23/12, 08/22/13, 08/28/14
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If the member's subscriber contract excludes coverage for a specific service it is not covered under that contract. In such cases, medical policy criteria are not applied.</i> • <i>Medical policies apply to commercial and Medicaid products only when a contract benefit for the specific service exists.</i> • <i>Medical policies only apply to Medicare products when a contract benefit exists and where there are no National or Local Medicare coverage decisions for the specific service.</i> 	

POLICY STATEMENT:

Medical/non-surgical weight management programs and related services, including physician and other qualified healthcare professional (e.g., physical therapists, occupational therapists) evaluations and supervision by program personnel, laboratory services, machine tests (e.g., indirect calorimetry), and foodstuffs, are generally excluded by contract and are, therefore, **ineligible for coverage**.

Refer to Corporate Medical Policy # 8.01.18 regarding Nutritional Therapy.

DESCRIPTION:

Overweight and obesity are chronic diseases and major health problems in the United States. A significant number of Americans are either overweight or obese.

Medical/non-surgical weight management programs and related services are designed to help people lose weight.

Services provided by medical/non-surgical weight management programs include, but are not limited to:

- I. Medical exams (often on a weekly basis),
- II. Laboratory testing,
- III. Machine tests,
- IV. Nutritional counseling, and
- V. Foodstuffs.

Examples of weight management programs include, but are not limited to: Jenny Craig, LA Weight Loss, Medifast, Nutrisystems, Optifast, and Weight Watchers.

CODES: Number Description

Eligibility for reimbursement is based upon the benefits set forth in the member's subscriber contract.

Codes may not be all inclusive as the AMA and CMS code updates may occur more frequently than policy updates.

<u>CPT:</u>	94690	Oxygen uptake, expired gas analysis; rest, indirect
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<u>HCPCS:</u>	S9449	Weight management classes, non-physician provider, per session
<u>ICD9:</u>	278.00	Obesity, unspecified
	278.01	Morbid obesity
	278.02	Overweight
	278.03	Obesity hypoventilation syndrome
<u>ICD10:</u>	E66.01-E66.9	Overweight and obesity (code range)

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*key article

KEY WORDS:

Medical weight loss, Non-surgical weight loss, Weight loss program.

CMS COVERAGE FOR MEDICARE PRODUCT MEMBERS

There is currently a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for the Treatment of Obesity. Please refer to the following website for Medicare Members: <http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/ncd-details.aspx?NCDId=38&ncdver=3&CoverageSelection=Both&ArticleType=All&PolicyType=Final&s=New+York++Upstate&Keyword=obesity&KeywordLookUp=Title&KeywordLookUp=Title&KeywordSearchType=And&KeywordSearchType=And&bc=gAAAABAAAA&>