

Policy References: [Enteral and Parenteral Nutritional Therapy National Coverage Determination \(NCD\)](#)
[Enteral Nutrition - Correct Coding and Billing](#)

Documentation References: [Standard Documentation Requirements Policy Article - A55426](#)

The treating clinician must complete the following items:

- [Standard Written Order \(SWO\)](#)
- Medical records from treating practitioner as noted below

Medical Documentation:

Coverage is possible when all of the following are met:

- Condition is of long and indefinite duration
- Beneficiary cannot be maintained on oral or enteral feedings and due to severe pathology of the alimentary tract, the beneficiary must be intravenously infused with parenteral nutrition. In order to maintain weight and strength commensurate with their overall health status
- Maintenance of weight and strength commensurate with the beneficiary's overall health status must require intravenous nutrition and must not be possible by either modifying the composition of enteral nutrition, or other treatments for malabsorption
- Medical record must clearly document the specific etiology, physical findings, symptoms, and include any test results indicating severe pathology of the alimentary tract, copies of the operative report and/or hospital discharge summary, and/or imaging reports; and indicate if the beneficiary is using or has previously used any prokinetic medications
- Ordering Clinician is expected to have an in-person visit with the beneficiary within 30 days prior to the initial certification or recertification of parenteral nutrition, and if unable to do so, document a clear explanation as to why, and how you evaluated the nutritional needs of the beneficiary
- If necessary, obtain a copy of a nutritional assessment by a clinician, dietitian or other qualified professional within one week prior to initiation of parenteral nutrition indicating current weight, caloric requirements, dietary modifications/supplements that have been tried etc.
- Clearly document the necessity for the amount and type of nutrients you are ordering in your clinical note
- Upon request, provide a copy of all of the above to your DME supplier

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