



Enteral Nutrition Update: Temporary Interchange of Equivalent Contracted Enteral Nutrition Products Due to Recent Formula Recall

April 4, 2022

Effective March 15, 2022 through July 1, 2022, enteral nutrition providers are permitted to interchange equivalent or similarly contracted enteral nutrition products without the requirement of a new prescription from the prescriber documenting the substitution.

This is a temporary interchange of equivalent or similarly contracted enteral nutrition products to allow manufacturers to adjust formula supply. This policy ends July 1, 2022.

This temporary substitution policy is in response to the large Abbott Nutrition recall of a specific enteral nutrition formula that occurred in February 2022 resulting in the shortage of product, prescriber backlog, supply and demand concerns from manufacturers, and access-to-care concerns.

The following criteria applies and must be documented in the beneficiary's file, either physically or electronically:

- The substituted product must be a contracted enteral nutrition product on the [List of Covered Enteral Nutrition Products](#) published on the [Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal](#).
- The product substituted must be in the same category and must have the same published product use of the original product (refer to the manufacturer's website for specific details). Please refer to the *Enteral Nutrition Products* section of the [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual](#) for more detailed coverage information.
- The product substituted must be the same kcal/gram, milliliter, or each as the original product.

- The product substituted must have the same product-specific criteria as the original product. Refer to the [List of Covered Enteral Nutrition Products](#) for product-specific criteria.
- The provider must document:
 - The substitution necessity, and
 - The date of the substitution, and
 - The original Rx number for the original product is now unavailable, and
 - The number of refills remaining on the prescription

Once the prescription is filled with the substituted product, the provider will notify the prescriber that a substitution has been made due to a lack of available formula due to a recent recall. This notification will inform the prescriber of the updated product currently being administered to the beneficiary and allow the prescriber to review, evaluate, and order a change to the enteral nutrition therapy if desired.

Providers should continue to document product billing numbers, prior authorization (PA) information, and clinical justification in the beneficiary's file for California Board of Pharmacy and Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) auditing purposes.

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Any prescriptions for enteral nutrition formula submitted to Medi-Cal Rx on or after that date must contain the contracted billing number of the product, PA information, and clinical justification as required by prior policy.