



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



## S.C. Healthy Connections Medicaid now covers nutritional counseling.

### Nutritional Counseling Program

The initiative's goals are to enable health care providers to treat obesity as a disease and bill accordingly. Ultimately, this will help reduce obesity rates in South Carolina and improve health outcomes.

### The program is for:

- Adults with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or greater who are committed to losing weight through diet and exercise.
- Children with a BMI at the 95th percentile or greater will continue to be covered through the Medicaid Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Testing program.

### The Nutritional Counseling Program includes:

- Six visits with a physician, physician assistant, and/or nurse practitioner and
- Six visits with a licensed dietitian.

### Patients must be referred by their health care provider to a licensed dietitian.

*If you are already referring your Medicaid patients to a local licensed dietitian, that dietitian is eligible to provide nutritional counseling services. If you do not have access to a local licensed dietitian, one can be provided to you through a partnership with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. Follow the below process to refer your patients to a DHEC licensed dietitian.*

1. Call **1-800-868-0404** to set up your patient's first appointment with a licensed dietitian at a S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control clinic.
2. You will then need to complete a referral form for nutritional counseling. The forms can be downloaded at [www.scdhec.gov/healthyweight](http://www.scdhec.gov/healthyweight).
3. Fax completed forms to **(803) 636-2655**.

## Physician Codes for Adult Intervention

Code	Modifier	Description	Max. units per calendar year
G0447	SC	Annual face-to-face obesity screening (15 minute session) initial visit only	1
G0447	–	Face-to-face behavioral counseling for obesity (15 minute session)	Total of 5 subsequent for individual behavioral counseling
G0447	HB	Group face-to-face behavioral counseling all groups are limited to five patients	Total of 5 subsequent for group behavioral counseling

- Reimbursement amount is \$20
- G0447 can be billed in conjunction with an E&M code on initial visit by appending the NCCI 25 modifier to the E&M code

## Licensed Dietitian Codes for Adult Intervention

Code	Modifier	Description	Max. units per calendar year
S9470	–	Nutritional counseling, dietitian visit (initial, individual visit)	Limit 1 per year: \$27.82 per 30 minute unit/session (Cannot bill more than once per patient per year)
S9452	–	Nutrition classes, non-physician provider (Individual)	Limit 5 per year: \$27.82 per 30 minute unit/session (Cannot bill more than once per day per patient)
S9452	HB	Nutrition classes, non-physician provider (Group session – not to exceed five patients)	Limit 5 per year: \$27.82 per 30 minute unit/session (Cannot bill more than once per day per patient)

## Pediatrician and Licensed Dietitian Codes for Child Intervention

Code	Modifier	Description	Max. Units per calendar year
97802	–	Medical nutrition therapy; initial assessment and intervention, individual, face-to-face with the patient (15 minute session) initial visit only	2
97803	–	Re-assessment and intervention, individual face-to-face with the patient (15 minute session)	10
97803	HB	Group face-to-face behavioral counseling (Group session – not to exceed five patients)	Total of 10 subsequent for either group or individual behavioral counseling

- Reimbursement amount is \$13.91 per 15 minute session (\$27.82 daily max), for licensed dietitians and \$22.76 per 15 minute session (\$45.52 daily max) for pediatricians.
- Nutritional counseling units billed for peds are based on 15 minute time unit session and are limited to two per day with a maximum of 12 in a year.
- Pediatricians must bill the appropriate level of Evaluation and Management (E&M) service codes (99201-99215) if obesity is diagnosed during the EPSDT visit.