

<b>Policy Name:</b>	<b>Amino Acid-Based Elemental Formula</b>
<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>8/19/2019</b>

## Important Information – Please Read Before Using This Policy

These services may or may not be covered by all Medica plans. Please refer to the member's plan document for specific coverage information. If there is a difference between this general information and the member's plan document, the member's plan document will be used to determine coverage. With respect to Medicare and Minnesota Health Care Programs, this policy will apply unless those programs require different coverage. Members may contact Medica Customer Service at the phone number listed on their member identification card to discuss their benefits more specifically. Providers with questions about this Medica coverage policy may call the Medica Provider Service Center toll-free at 1-800-458-5512.

Medica coverage policies are not medical advice. Members should consult with appropriate health care providers to obtain needed medical advice, care and treatment.

## Coverage Policy

Amino acid-based elemental oral formulas are **COVERED** for the following diagnoses:

1. cystic fibrosis;
2. amino acid, organic acid, and fatty acid metabolic and malabsorption disorders;
3. IgE mediated allergies to food proteins;
4. food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome;
5. eosinophilic esophagitis;
6. eosinophilic gastroenteritis; and
7. eosinophilic colitis.

Coverage for the diagnoses in 3-7 above is limited to members five years of age and younger. Amino acid-based elemental formulas are **NOT COVERED** for all other diagnoses and for patients diagnosed with conditions 3-7 above who are six years of age and older.

**Note:** Enteral feedings are addressed specifically in Medica's Utilization Management Policy *Outpatient Enteral Nutrition Therapy*.

**Note:** This policy is no longer scheduled for routine review of the scientific literature

## Description

Amino acid-based elemental formulas are made from individual (single) non-allergenic amino acids unlike regular dairy (milk or soy based) formulas and foods that contain many complete proteins. Amino acid-based elemental formulas are made of proteins broken down to their "elemental level" so that they can be easily absorbed and digested. In many cases, amino acid-based elemental formulas are the only thing an infant or child can properly digest and tolerate due to various allergies or gastrointestinal conditions.

## Prior Authorization

Prior authorization is not required. However, services with specific coverage criteria may be reviewed retrospectively to determine if criteria are being met. Retrospective denial may result if criteria are not met.

## Coding Considerations

Use the current applicable CPT/HCPCS code(s). The following codes are included below for informational purposes only, and are subject to change without notice. Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement.

### HCPC Codes:

- B4153 - Enteral formula, nutritionally complete, hydrolyzed proteins (amino acids and peptide chain), includes fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, may include fiber, administered through an enteral feeding tube, 100 calories = 1 unit
- B4161 - Enteral formula, for pediatrics, hydrolyzed/amino acids and peptide chain proteins, includes fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, may include fiber, administered through an enteral feeding tube, 100 calories = 1 unit.

Original Effective Date: 7/1/2007

Re-Review Date(s): 4/21/2010  
5/15/2013  
5/18/2016  
6/26/2019  
2/27/2020 – administrative update; format

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