

POLICY REGARDING MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MEDIFAST

The MEDIFAST PROGRAM is a PROTIEN SPARING MODIFIED FAST for the treatment of obesity (BMI>30). Traditionally, most insurance companies do not regard obesity as a diagnosis for which they provide reimbursement for evaluation or treatment.

However, in many cases, insurance coverage is provided if there are concomitant medical conditions, which are appropriately treated by weight reduction. Some of these conditions, for example, are diabetes, high blood pressure, elevated blood cholesterol or triglycerides, respiratory distress, asthma, sleep apnea, or arthritis of the weight bearing joints.

As you know, we monitor and manage concurrent and intercurrent medical conditions during the course of your Supplemental Fasting Program.

We are unable to determine the policy of any particular insurance company regarding reimbursement for your medical expenses. Upon your request, we will submit a statement including the diagnosis as transcribed from your chart. In the final analysis, your insurance carrier must make the decision regarding reimbursement.

Under Medicare (effective 1/10/83), "Supplemental Fasting, with appropriate monitoring, is covered when weight reduction is necessary before surgery in order to ameliorate the complications posed by obesity when it co-exists with pathological conditions such as cardiac and respiratory diseases, diabetes, or hypertension".

As in all medical matters, the ultimate responsibility for payment of incurred expenses rests with the patient.

We keep the cost of Medifast reasonable in our practice. The cost of the product would be similar to the cost of comparable calories in food.

_____ is a patient at the East Carolina Family Practice Center. The physician providing care has prescribed participation in a protein sparing modified fasting program at the Family Practice Center.

In addition to obesity, the patient has the following diagnosis:

There are initial laboratory tests, regular doctor office visits, and periodic laboratory tests that are part of the Medifast Program. If you need more specific data, please advise us.

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