

July XX, 2024

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Jason Smith
Chair
Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member
Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman McMorris Rodgers, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Neal,

The undersigned XX national, state and local organizations express their support for the **Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2023 (H.R. 6407, S. 3297)**. Sponsored by U.S. Reps. Robin Kelly and Jen Kiggans, and U.S. Sens. Susan Collins and Gary Peters, this bill would provide access to essential nutrition care services under Medicare Part B.

Medical nutrition therapy (MNT) is a multifaceted service that includes nutritional diagnosis, therapy, and counseling for the purpose of disease management. MNT is furnished by a registered dietitian or other qualified nutrition professional and is integral to the prevention, treatment, and management of chronic conditions such as diabetes, kidney disease, obesity, malnutrition, eating disorders, cancer, cardiovascular disease and more. As the nation struggles to find solutions for the burden of chronic diseases, evidence-based therapies such as MNT that address lifestyle factors independent of or in addition to pharmacological and other interventions are practical and clinically effective.

Current law only allows Medicare Part B to cover MNT services for kidney disease and diabetes, leaving millions of seniors without access to comprehensive care that could reduce and slow chronic disease progression, improve outcomes and enhance quality. The Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2023 would expand Medicare Part B MNT coverage to include prediabetes, obesity, hypertension, dyslipidemia, malnutrition, eating disorders, cancer, gastrointestinal diseases including celiac disease, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular disease, and conditions related to unintentional weight loss. While Medicare beneficiaries have access to nutrition care during hospitalization, there is no follow-up care as they transition to home or community settings despite the well-published connection between MNT for these conditions and improvements in health outcomes.

Two-thirds of Medicare beneficiaries suffer from multiple chronic conditions and these challenges are even greater for the many racial and ethnic minority communities that have long faced chronic disease health disparities due to socioeconomic inequalities and reduced access to health care, healthy foods and safe places to be active.

Medical nutrition therapy is a cost-effective part of care for many of these costly conditions. We encourage you and your colleagues to help ensure that seniors have equitable access to care by supporting the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2023.

Sincerely,
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics