

EPSDT Nutritional
Supp

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March 9, 1992

Robert J. Palumbo, Acting Associate Director
for Medical Services
Department of Human Services
600 New London Ave.
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

Dear Mr. Palumbo:

We have received a policy clarification from our Central Office in Baltimore regarding payment **for** nutritionists* services in the context of EPSDT services.

Because the EPSDT benefit encompasses all medically necessary services listed in section 1905 (a) of the Social Security Act, we believe that in order for something to be covered under EPSDT, it must be coverable under a State Medicaid plan. For example, nutrition services provided within the scope of medicine as defined under State law that are furnished by a physician may be covered under the plan as a physician service as described in regulations at 42 CFR 440.50. Another example would be nutrition services furnished by clinic staff in situations where the State's clinic benefit includes nutrition services.

In addition, because a State could elect to provide nutritionists' services in its regular Medicaid program under regulations at 42 CFR 440.60, as a licensed practitioner of the healing arts practicing within the scope of practice as defined under-state law, the State may provide such services and enroll such providers under the EPSDT program, without regard to whether the State otherwise elects the services under its Medicaid plan.

The State Medicaid Manual indicates in 5123.2 **A.2.**, that if information obtained through the assessment of nutritional status suggests dietary inadequacy, obesity or other nutritional problems, further evaluation is indicated. If the further assessment, diagnostic or treatment services fall within the practice, as permitted under State law, that licensed nutritionists may provide, the State could enroll nutritionists to provide the necessary care.

Unit	Name	Signature	Date	Unit	Name	Signature	Date
MOB	MARTIN	R. MARTIN	3/9/92				
MOB				MOB	Bavelock	[Signature]	3/9
MOB				Medicaid	Preston	[Signature]	

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Nutrition services may also be provided under Title V or WIC programs which service many EPSDT recipients. State Medicaid agencies should be aware of this in order to avoid duplicating services provided by other agencies.

If you have any questions regarding these policies, please contact your State Medicaid Representative.

Sincerely yours,

Ronald Preston, Ph.D.
Associate Regional Administrator

cc: Arthur Mazer

HCFA:DM/AID;MOB:/A **Mazer:ey:5-1247:3-6IDEN.LTR**

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IDENTICAL LETTER TO ALL STATE'S DIRECTOR