



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

NICK LYON
DIRECTOR

January 19, 2016

Subject: Metabolic Formula – Changes in Coverage for Patients (over Age 21)

Dear Metabolic Clinic Patients:

You may recall we sent you a letter in the fall of 2014 about the need to find new funding sources to pay for metabolic formula. We formed a Metabolic Formula and Food Family Work Group in 2015 to find out what may happen when patients no longer get free metabolic formula. Results from the work group (enclosed) helped the department think through the changes.

As of January 1, 2017, the Newborn Screening Program can no longer pay for metabolic formula for adults over 21 years of age. At that time, you will need to use your health insurance benefit or pay out of pocket. If you are on Medicaid or the Healthy Michigan Plan, your formula is already being billed to Medicaid.

We want to allow patients with private insurance time to decide what to do about this change. Starting this spring, the Metabolic Clinic will work with a Durable Medical Equipment company (DME) to test your insurance coverage for your next formula order. Please call your dietitian at least two weeks before you need your formula. If your insurance pays for the total cost of metabolic formula, the DME will order and get the formula to you. If your insurance does not cover all or a majority of the cost of formula, it can still be provided by the clinic until December 31, 2016 but you need to learn about your options. The Newborn Screening Program will also look for ways to help when insurance does not cover metabolic formula. We need to know how many people do not have access to insurance coverage for formula, so it is important for every adult patient to test their insurance benefits by June 1, 2016 or sooner.

If you do not have any health insurance now, you may be eligible for the Healthy Michigan Plan. Please visit <http://www.michigan.gov/healthymiplan> to find out if you are eligible and consider enrolling in the plan which provides access to coverage for metabolic formula.

From the work group we learned that adult patients will likely fit into one of three groups:

1. **Patients with full Medicaid coverage.** Their Medicaid benefit will pay for metabolic formula with no cost to the patient or family.
2. **Patients with private insurance.** The metabolic formula will need to be charged to their insurance. The insurance company may:
 - a. Cover the full cost of formula with no cost to the patient.
 - b. Cover some of the formula cost. Patient would have to pay remaining cost.
 - c. Not cover any of the formula cost. Patient would have to pay the full cost.
3. **Patients with no insurance, who are not eligible or do not wish to enroll in the Healthy Michigan Plan.** Patient will have to pay the full cost of metabolic formula.

Over Age 21 Patients

January 19, 2016

Page 2

The Michigan Family to Family Health Information Center will offer training and information to help patients deal with the change to insurance billing, including insurance co-pays and deductibles. They may also be able to help with other needs. If you want to be notified of dates for trainings, either in-person or by webinar, please contact Jane Pilditch at jpilditc@mphi.org or 517-324-8391.

Information regarding inborn errors of metabolism is also posted at www.michigan.gov/IEMtreatment. This is sometimes referred to as "Diet for Life".

Thank you for your understanding as we try to ensure Michigan residents living with inborn errors of metabolism are able to get the needed formula. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at newbornscreening@michigan.gov or call 866-852-1247.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Lyon-Callo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sarah" being the most prominent.

Sarah Lyon-Callo, MA, MS

Director, Lifecourse Epidemiology and Genomics Division

SLC:vg

Enclosures

cc: Children's Hospital of Michigan Metabolic Clinic
DHHS Medical Services Administration
Family to Family Health Information Center