

Metabolic Formula and Food Work Group Summary

Twelve families joined the Metabolic Formula and Food Work Group in January, 2015. These families worked with Children's Hospital of Michigan Metabolic Clinic to test their insurance coverage for metabolic formula. Both public and private insurances were billed for formula orders. The experiences of these families helped the state Newborn Screening Program understand if billing insurance would change access to formula. Some of the findings of the work group are listed below:

Medicaid –This public insurance paid for metabolic formula. Adults and children with straight Medicaid received their formula with very few problems. Everyone in Michigan with this insurance now gets their formula through this billing method.

Private health insurance plans – There are private insurance plans in Michigan that paid for metabolic formula. The amount that an insurance paid depends upon the plan's policy.

- Some plans paid for all of the cost of metabolic formula.
- Some plans only paid for 80 percent of the cost of formula. Families would then need to pay the other 20 percent of the cost.
- Many plans applied the cost of metabolic formula toward the deductible amount. Once the yearly amount has been paid, insurance will pay for some or all of the cost of future formula orders.
- Some plans paid for some of the cost of low-protein modified foods. This coverage is not consistent and additional work is being done to learn more.

Formula provider – The CHM Metabolic Clinic continued to prescribe and order the formula. The clinic helps find a special company called a Durable Medical Equipment (DME) supplier to order the formula. The DME worked with families to ship the formula to their home.

- Only a one-month supply was delivered to the families.
- Certain DMEs required the parents to sign for the delivery of the formula shipment.
- More lead time is needed for obtaining formula through a DME than through the clinic. When ordering formula, families must provide more advance notice than in the past, typically about two weeks before the formula is needed.

Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) – CSHCS is a program available to families with children under 21 years of age who are diagnosed with an eligible condition that requires metabolic formula. CSHCS provides additional health coverage and support for children with special health care needs and their families.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Newborn Screening Program wishes to extend special thanks to the families who volunteered their time to test health insurance benefits. Their efforts greatly increased the program's understanding of the 3rd party insurance billing process.