



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Health and Recovery Services Administration, P.O. Box 45502, Olympia, Washington 98504-5500

June 15, 2009

DSHS will no longer cover “oral enteral nutrition” for adults.

The State Legislature has directed DSHS to reduce spending in order to help balance the budget. This means that certain Medicaid services will now be limited or no longer be available.

When will this change happen?

- Beginning July 1, 2009

What if I use it for Tube Feedings?

- DSHS will still cover oral nutrition for adults using it for tube feedings.

What if I get oral nutrition now?

- If it was authorized by our department, you will still get it until the end date on the approval letter that was sent to you.

Is there an exception?

- Yes. You can have your doctor ask DSHS for an exception to this policy following the “exception-to-rule” process in the state’s administrative code (WAC 388-501-0160).

What about my children?

- DSHS will continue to cover oral nutrition for children.

Can I ask for a fair hearing?

- No. Because the benefit change affects all Medicaid recipients, there is no right for an evidentiary hearing. An evidentiary hearing is a hearing where you can present your facts and testimony. In addition, because there is no evidentiary hearing there will be no continuation of enteral nutrition benefits as of July 1, 2009; or after the end date on your approval letter if your service was authorized.

If you have questions please call our Medical Assistance Customer Service Center at 1-800-562-3022, available 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Additional information and the forms required to request an authorization to have more than the limit are available at the HRSA Web site at <http://maa.dshs.wa.gov>.