

# PROVIDER Update



Health Net®

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## Breast Pumps and Infant Nutrition are Covered Benefits

Manual, personal-use electric and hospital-grade electric breast pumps are a covered benefit for Health Net Medi-Cal members. Health Net Community Solutions, Inc. (Health Net) encourages Medi-Cal participating providers to utilize Pumping Essentials as Health Net's recommended breast pump supplier. Pumping Essentials is a durable medical equipment (DME) provider that specializes in retail-grade manual and personal-use electric breast pumps, and ships directly to the member.

### OVERVIEW

Health Net covers breast pumps as a DME benefit. A prescription or an authorization may be required based on the following:

- Retail-grade manual and personal-use electric breast pumps do not require prior authorization. For Medi-Cal fee-for-service (FFS) participating providers, a prescription is necessary. Members and providers may contact Pumping Essentials by telephone at 1-866-688-4203 or by fax at 1-888-557-0898 for additional information or to place an order.
- Hospital-grade electric breast pumps, when medically necessary, require prior authorization, and are available as a rental only. Providers should order these breast pumps through Apria Healthcare by telephone at 1-800-277-4288.

FFS providers must complete the member and physician information on an *Infant Nutrition Benefits Authorization Request Form Breast Pump and Lactation Consultant Services* which is available on [provider.healthnet.com](http://provider.healthnet.com) under *Provider Library > Forms > Breast Pump and Lactation Consultant Services*. Mark the box in the right-hand column when requesting a personal-use electric breast pump. Fax the completed form directly to the Health Net Health Care Services Department at 1-800-743-1655. The request form may also serve as the prescription for retail-grade pumps.

Providers contracting through a participating physician group (PPG) must follow the PPG's prior authorization process and use their applicable forms for breast pumps.

### LACTATION EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Lactation education and support services are provided by a lactation educator-counselor or an International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC). An IBCLC specializes in the clinical management of breastfeeding and offers a variety of services, including maternal and child feeding assessments and breastfeeding education.

#### Billing for Lactation Education and Support Services

The state of California does not recognize lactation educator-counselors or IBCLC certifications as designated professionals who can be assigned a Medi-Cal provider number or bill Medi-Cal for services directly. However, a Medi-Cal provider can bill for lactation support services under their own Medi-Cal number if the services are rendered by a community perinatal health worker (CPHW), medical assistant (MA),

THIS UPDATE APPLIES TO CALIFORNIA PROVIDERS:

- Physicians
- Participating Physician Groups
- Hospitals
- Ancillary Providers

LINES OF BUSINESS:

- HMO/POS/HSP
- PPO
- EPO
- Medicare Advantage (HMO)
- Medi-Cal
  - Kern
  - Los Angeles
    - Molina
  - Riverside
  - Sacramento
  - San Bernardino
  - San Diego
  - San Joaquin
  - Stanislaus
  - Tulare

PROVIDER SERVICES

1-800-675-6110  
[provider.healthnet.com](http://provider.healthnet.com)

PROVIDER COMMUNICATIONS

[provider.communications@healthnet.com](mailto:provider.communications@healthnet.com)  
healthnet.com  
fax 1-800-937-6086

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registered nurse (RN), nurse practitioner (NP), or physician assistant (PA) who has one of these lactation certifications. If a provider does not have a person on staff with a lactation certification, the provider may subcontract with a lactation consultant and reimburse the individual directly.

### Referrals through CPSP Providers

Health Net supports the voluntary Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP) for pregnant members. CPSP-certified providers offer Medi-Cal members nutrition, psychosocial and health education, support, and referrals in the antepartum and postpartum period. CPSP services can only be billed up to 60 days postpartum. After 60 days, CPSP providers can offer lactation support services, but must bill using the appropriate ICD-10 diagnosis codes or CPT procedure codes.

Health Net encourages participating obstetrician-gynecologists (OB/GYNs) to offer CPSP services to all pregnant members. An OB/GYN specialist can become CPSP-certified by contacting the local county CPSP coordinator. Health Net's public programs administrators serve as liaisons to CPSP and are also available to assist providers in becoming CPSP-certified.

### Referrals through Non-CPSP Providers

All providers should educate and encourage pregnant mothers to breastfeed, and provide access to lactation education and support services when needed. Health Net directly contracting FFS Medi-Cal participating providers who are not CPSP-certified can provide lactation services if a staff member is a lactation educator-counselor or IBCLC-certified and bill using appropriate ICD-10 diagnosis codes or CPT procedure codes. Providers may refer a member to lactation services for infants up to age one.

The FFS Medi-Cal participating provider must submit an *Infant Nutrition Benefits Authorization Request Form Breast Pump and Lactation Consultant Services* which is available on [provider.healthnet.com](http://provider.healthnet.com) under *Provider Library > Forms > Breast Pump and Lactation Consultant Services*. Without a formal arrangement with a participating physician or facility, the lactation consultant is considered a nonparticipating provider and must contact Health Net prior to rendering services to confirm authorization and receive billing instructions. Once the authorization is approved, the provider should contact the member with a referral and instructions on which lactation consultant to visit. Providers may contact the Health Net Medi-Cal Provider Services Center at 1-800-675-6110 for a list of local lactation consultants.

Providers within a PPG must verify prior authorization requirements and preferred lactation education and support services with the PPG.

## THERAPEUTIC INFANT FORMULA AND BANKED HUMAN MILK

Enteral nutritional supplements and replacements are a conditional benefit of the Health Net Medi-Cal program and always require prior authorization. When medically necessary, they are provided as a therapeutic regimen to prevent serious disability or death in patients with medically diagnosed conditions that preclude the full use of regular food (22CCR 51313.3(e)(2)). Therapeutic formula is a medical food formulated to be consumed or administered enterally under the supervision of a physician and intended for the specific dietary management of a disease or condition of distinctive nutritional requirements based on recognized scientific principles established by medical evaluation.

Similar to therapeutic formulas, human milk can be classified as enteral nutritional supplement or replacement for newborns in situations where the mother is unable to breastfeed due to medical reasons, and the infant cannot tolerate or has medical contraindications to the use of any formula, including elemental formulas. Both conditions must be met in order for authorization requests for human milk to be considered. The Mother's Milk Bank of San Jose is the only human milk bank in California and the only provider of service at this time.

The FFS Medi-Cal participating provider must complete an *Infant Nutrition Benefits Authorization Request Form Therapeutic Formula* to obtain authorization for this benefit. This form is available on [provider.healthnet.com](http://provider.healthnet.com) under *Provider Library > Forms > Infant Nutrition Benefits Authorization Request Form Therapeutic Formula*. Fax the completed form directly to the Health Net Health Care Services Department at 1-800-743-1655.

Providers within a PPG must verify prior authorization requirements and preferred lactation education and support services with the PPG.

Members may contact Health Net Member Services as listed on the back of their Health Net identification (ID) card for additional information regarding breastfeeding benefits.

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this update, contact the Health Net Medi-Cal Provider Services Center at 1-800-675-6110.