

I'm Dr. John Gobble, I have a business in Clackamas called Medical Nutrition Therapy Northwest where I provide medical nutrition therapy to patients referred to me by medical practices in our community and I consult with local health systems, and other health organizations across the Nation. I'm an advanced trained registered dietitian, and an Oregon licensed dietitian.

I want to bring to your attention the role of the Registered Dietitian for whom I believe is the most prepared and experienced licensed provider for the delivery of the preventive care and chronic disease management benefit mandated by the Affordable Care Act.

The advanced trained registered dietitian is the most qualified health professional to provide food and nutrition advice in the context of therapeutic and preventive care lifestyle change. We call this Medical Nutrition Therapy. This is where we translate the most current scientific research on lifestyle and food choices into practical solutions. You see, the registered dietitian is both highly skilled and rigorously vetted for this role. At a minimum the registered dietitian has a bachelors degree however nearly 50% have advanced training such as a masters or doctorate degrees. All Registered Dietitians have completed both an accredited, supervised practice program and passed a national examination and completes annual continuing education requirements to maintain their Registered Dietitian status and their Oregon State License.

In my clinical practice, I submit claims directly to a patient's health plans and in doing so, I code my visits using CPT treatment codes designated specifically for the Registered Dietitian and Medical Nutrition Therapy (97802 - 97804). The April 1 prioritized list of health services includes these treatment codes for essential health benefits (EHB). EHB that include these codes are the following 28 treatments/conditions:

1	• Pregnancy, Maternity care	109	• Cardiomyopathy
8	• Obesity, Intensive counseling (Nutr/PA/Beh)	127	• Iron Deficiency Anemia and Other Deficiencies
10	• Type 1 Diabetes	160	• Disorders of Mineral Metabolism (not CA)
12	• Hypertension	195	• Chronic Ischemic Heart Disease (CHD)
13	• Galactosemia	238	• Parathyroid Gland Disorder
17	• Phenylketonuria (PKU)	241	• Intestinal Malabsorption
33	• Type 2 Diabetes	255	• Acute Necrosis of Liver
35	• Enteritis (GI)	305	• Anorexia Nervosa
36	• Epilepsy	329	• Amino Acid Transport and Metabolism Disorder
66	• End Stage Renal Disease	360	• Alcoholic Fatty Liver/Hepatitis/Cirrhosis
67	• Hyperlipidemia, Metabolic syndrome	366	• Nephrotic Syndrome other Renal Disorders
76	• Acute Heart Disease (MI)	370	• Disaccharidase deficiency
90	• Myocarditis	412	• Bulimia Nervosa
108	• Heart Failure (CHF)	425	• Eating Disorder NOS

The CCOs may need guidance from the board and explanation within the EHB document that will allow Registered Dietitians to be available to provide these services.

The Registered Dietitian is the most qualified Lifestyle educator and counselor for the delivery of preventive care and chronic disease management benefit. Thank you.