From: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (*Physician Name & Subscriber Name)*

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 *(Subscriber ID Number)*

To: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (*Insurance Provider*)

**SUBJECT: Insurance Coverage Request for Real Food Blends**®

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I am requesting insurance coverage and reimbursement for my patient,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, born on \_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_, for whom I have prescribed the use of Real Food Blends, a commercial blenderized tube feeding product. I have prescribed Real Food Blendsto provide nutrition support for my patient diagnosed with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (ICD-10 diagnosis code). **Based on this patient’s clinical history, I have determined that this blenderized tube feeding product is medically necessary.**

The use of Real Food Blends is a key factor in the nutritional management for this individual due to

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

At diagnosis, my patient’s weight was \_\_\_\_\_\_ (kg), and height was \_\_\_\_\_\_ (cm). My patient’s present weight is \_\_\_\_\_\_ (kg), and height is \_\_\_\_\_\_ (cm). He/She/They will require \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ calories per day or \_\_\_\_ pouches per day of Real Food Blends. This amount may be adjusted as his/her/their nutritional needs change. Real Food Blends will be this patient’s primary source of nutrition, and it will be consumed via enteral feeding tube.

Real Food Blends are real food meals made from 100% simple ingredients for people with feeding tubes. Real Food Blends may be administered via bolus, pump or gravity feeding. The meals are suitable for use with 14 Fr G-Tube or larger, and Mini Snack with 12 Fr G-Tube or larger.

Bowel irregularities and GI issues are common with tube feeding patients. A growing body of evidence indicates blenderized tube feeding may improve common signs of formula intolerance, such as: nausea and vomiting1,2, reflux associated with tube feeding3,4, gagging/retching5,6, and bowl irregularities1,7. Real Food Blends meals and snack most closely mimic homemade blenderized tube feeding compared to other blenderized enteral formulas. In fact, Real Food Blends is the only ready-to-feed blenderized diet option made from 100% real food and no synthetic ingredients, ideal for patients wanting easy access to a true blended diet. Each Real Food Blends meal or snack is made from 5-8 ingredients, with no added sugar\* or salt\*\*.

My patient has trialed other products including \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with documented signs of formula intolerance such as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. With a trial on Real Food Blends, my patient has shown improvements in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Your approval of this request for assistance with medical care and reimbursement of the commercial blenderized tube feeding product would have a significant positive impact on this patient’s nutrition care.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Name*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Title*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Title – Center/Hospital/Institution/Practice*

\*Not a low-calorie food

\*\*Not a sodium-free food

1. Spurlock, et al. Nutr Clin Pract. 2022;37:615-624. 2. Hron, et al. J Pediatr. 2019;211:139-145. 3. Kernizan, et al. JPGN. 2020;71:124-128. 4. Batsis, et al. Nutr Clin Pract. 2020;35:282-288.5. Pentiuk, et al. JPEN. 2011;35:375-379. 6. Gallagher, et al. JPEN. 2018;42:1046-1060. 7. Schmidt, et al. Clin Nutr. 2019;38:332-240.

**Product and Reimbursement Information for Real Food Blends**®

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  **Product Name** | **Product Code** | **Product Packaging** | **Calories per Pouch** | **Protein per Pouch (g)** | **NDC-format Code**† | **HCPCS Code** |
| Chicken, Carrots & Brown Rice | 176988 | 12 X 9.4 oz | 340 | 14 | 30669-0449-66 | B4149 |
| Salmon, Oats & Squash | 176987 | 12 X 9.4 oz | 330 | 12 | 30669-0449-67 | B4149 |
| Quinoa, Kale & Hemp | 176992 | 12 X 9.4 oz | 340 | 12 | 30669-0449-68 | B4149 |
| Beef, Potatoes & Spinach | 176993 | 12 X 9.4 oz | 330 | 11 | 30669-0449-69 | B4149 |
| Eggs, Apples & Oats | 176989 | 12 X 9.4 oz | 320 | 8 | 16417-0781-84 | B4149 |
| Turkey, Sweet Potatoes & Peaches | 176990 | 12 X 9.4 oz | 320 | 14 | 16417-0781-86 | B4149 |
| Prunes, Pears & Pumpkin | 182829 | 12 X 4 oz | 100 | 1 | 49735-0100-83 | B4149 |

†*Nutricia North America does not represent codes to be National Drug Codes (NDCs). NDC-format codes are product codes adjusted according to standard industry practice to meet the format requirements of pharmacy and health insurance systems.*

For insurance billing purposes, Real Food Blends products are listed under the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) B4149.

This letter is intended to be used as a template and customized by the clinician for each patient. It is ultimately the responsibility of the healthcare professionals associated with the patient's care to determine and document the appropriate diagnosis(es) and code(s) for the patient's condition(s). Nutricia North America does not guarantee that the use of any information provided in this letter will result in coverage or payment by any third-party payer.