Medical Nutrition Therapy

What is It?
Medicare may cover medical nutrition therapy if you have diabetes or kidney disease, and your doctor refers you for this service. These services can be given by a registered dietitian or Medicare-approved nutrition professional, and include a nutritional assessment and counseling to help you manage your diabetes or kidney disease.

Cost to you?
You pay nothing for these services if the doctor accepts assignment.

How Often is it Covered?
Medicare covers 3 hours of one-on-one counseling services the first year, and 2 hours each year after that. If your condition, treatment, or diagnosis changes, you may be able to get more hours of treatment with a doctor’s referral. A doctor must prescribe these services and renew your referral yearly if continuing treatment is needed into another calendar year.

Who is covered?
Certain people who have any of these:
- Diabetes
- Renal disease (people who have kidney disease, but aren’t on dialysis)
- Have had a kidney transplant within the last 3 years
Your doctor needs to refer you for this service

Additional Information
Visit www.medicare.gov/publications to view the booklet “Medicare Coverage of Diabetes Supplies & Services.” You can also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.