**Date**:

**To**: *Insurance Co.*

*Insurance Co. Address*

**From**: *Physician name*

**SUBJECT:** Request for coverage/reimbursement for Functional Formularies Nourish Peptide feeding tube formula.

I am requesting insurance coverage and reimbursement on behalf of my patient, *name*, *DOB dd/mm/yyyy*, who has been under my care since \_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_. I have prescribed Functional Formularies Nourish Peptide feeding tube formula for the dietary management of [*insert* *diagnosis or condition].* I have determined that this formula is medically necessary. I am prescribing Nourish Peptide as a part of this patient's treatment plan for the health benefits that it may provide and to ensure that the patient is receiving a complete formula when they are being fed, which may lead to better health outcomes, considering their medical diagnosis and individual nutritional needs. The patient requires this formula for their nutritional management as a result of his/her diagnosis and/or condition, and not as a convenience.

*[IMPORTANT: Verify medical necessity for formula, including diagnosis, documented failure or intolerance to other formulas, current height/weight, growth chart data, history of weight loss, pertinent lab results, medications, and potential outcome if the formula is denied.]*

Functional Formularies Nourish Peptide is a pediatric peptide enteral formula for children who have difficulty with the digestion and/or absorption of intact protein and may benefit from an organic, plant-based peptide formula made with real whole food ingredients that are free of milk, eggs, wheat, soy, sesame, fish, shellfish, peanuts, and tree nuts, the 9 most common allergens. The organic hydrolyzed pea protein, organic garbanzo beans, organic green peas, organic brown rice, and organic sprouted quinoa provide all the essential amino acids required for normal, healthy growth and development. Nourish Peptide contains 34% of its calories from organic coconut MCT oil. Medium chain triglycerides (MCTs) do not require bile or pancreatic enzymes for digestion and are readily absorbed and made available to bodily systems to aid with tolerance. The diverse, fermentable fiber types in Nourish Peptide increase the microbial diversity and commensal bacteria populations fostering a healthy gut microbiome. This improves overall GI function and can ameliorate diarrhea caused by a low amount of beneficial intestinal flora.

The use of an enteral formula composed of whole foods has been shown to be clinically advantageous for several medical conditions and/or feeding problems that are often associated with intolerance to standard tube feeding formulas:

* Nausea (1,6)
* Vomiting (1,5,6,7,10)
* Bloating (1)
* Diarrhea (1,6,9)
* Constipation (1,3,10)
* Abdominal pain (6)
* Stomach upset (6)
* Reflux/gagging/retching (2,3,5,6,7,10)
* Failure to thrive (8)
* Volume intolerance (3)
* Ingredient/allergen intolerance
* Inability/difficulty transitioning to oral feeding (5,6,7,10)

Nourish Peptide is a complete source of plant-based nutrition and is intended for the nutritional management of those patients with special health needs, failure to thrive, developmental disabilities, dysphagia, and/or those requiring a long-term tube feeding product to meet nutritional needs and desire a real whole food component.

Nourish Peptide feeding tube formula is formulated to provide 100% of the Dietary Reference Intake (DRI) for 26 key vitamins and minerals for patients 4 to 8 years of age in 3 pouches (~1065 mL). Nourish Peptide meets all food safety requirements as well as all GRAS, HACCP, and CGMP standards. It is produced in an FDA/USDA registered facility with a USDA inspector on-site. It is shelf-stable, requires no refrigeration, and has a two-year shelf life.

Nourish Peptide is intended for use under medical supervision. Functional Formularies Nourish Peptide feeding tube formula is recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as “an enteral formula, for pediatrics, hydrolyzed/amino acids and peptide chain proteins, including fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, may include fiber, administered through an enteral feeding tube,” found in HCPCS Category B4161.

Thank you for reviewing this request. Please contact me should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

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*Signature of prescribing MD, PA-C, ARNP Date*

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*Printed Name of prescribing MD, PA-C, ARNP*

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*Title           Phone/Email*

**Attachments**: You may want to include pertinent information supporting your directive including Clinical Notes, Reports, Prescription, and/or other relevant documentation.

**References:**

(1) Hurt R., et al. Blenderized tube feeding use in adult home enteral nutrition patients: a cross sectional study. *Nutr Clin Prac*. 2015;30:824-829.

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(4) Schmitz E., et al. Blenderized tube feeding for children: an integrative review. *Rev Paul Pediatr*. 2022;40:32020419.

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(6) Hron B., et al. Health outcomes and quality of life indices of children receiving blenderized feeds via enteral tube. *J Pediatrics*. 2019;211,139-145.

(7) Batsis I., et al. Efficacy and tolerance of blended diets in children receiving gastrostomy feeds. *Nutr Clin Prac*. 2020;35:282-288.

(8) Lezo A., Baldini L., Asteggiano M. Failure to Thrive in the Outpatient Clinic: A New Insight. *Nutrients.* 2020, 12, 2202.

(9) Zong W., Troutt R., Merves J. Blenderized enteral nutrition in pediatric short gut syndrome: Tolerance and clinical outcomes. *Nutr Clin Pract*. 2022;37:913-920.

(10) Walker S., et al. Blenderized food tube feeding in very young pediatric patients with special healthcare needs. *Nutr Clin Pract*. 2023:1-8.