**Date**:

**To**: *Insurance Co.*

*Insurance Co. Address*

**From**: *Physician name*

**SUBJECT:** Request for coverage/reimbursement for Functional Formularies Liquid Hope 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 Liquid Hope feeding tube formula for the dietary management of [*insert* *diagnosis or condition].* I have determined that this formula is medically necessary. I am prescribing Liquid Hope 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 Liquid Hope is an adult enteral formula for patients 18 years of age or older who may benefit from an organic, plant-based formula made with real whole food ingredients that are free of milk, eggs, wheat, soy, sesame, fish, shellfish, and peanuts. Organic garbanzo beans, organic green peas, organic brown rice, and organic sprouted quinoa provide all the essential amino acids to meet adult protein requirements. The diverse, fermentable fiber types in Liquid Hope 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 (1,2,5,8)
* Vomiting (1,2,3,4,5,8)
* Bloating (1,8)
* Diarrhea (1,2,5,6,7,8)
* Constipation (1,2,8)
* Abdominal pain (2,5,8)
* Reflux/gagging/retching (3,4)
* Malnutrition (6,8)
* Volume intolerance (3,4)
* Inability/difficulty transitioning to oral feeding (4,5)

Liquid Hope is a complete source of plant-based nutrition and is intended for the nutritional management of those patients with specific metabolic requirements, multiple food allergies, intolerances, digestive conditions that may be secondary to other commercial formulas, and/or those requiring a long-term tube feeding product to meet nutritional needs and desire a real whole food component.

Liquid Hope feeding tube formula is formulated to provide 100% of the Dietary Reference Intake (DRI) for 25 key vitamins and minerals for patients 18 years of age or older in 4 pouches (~1420 mL). Liquid Hope 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.

Liquid Hope is intended for use under medical supervision. Functional Formularies Liquid Hope feeding tube formula is recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as “an enteral formula, manufactured blenderized natural foods with intact nutrients, includes proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins, and minerals, may include fiber, administered through an enteral feeding tube,” found in HCPCS Category B4149.

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, prescriptions, 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.

(2) Steel C., et al. Understanding the use and tolerance of a pediatric and an adult commercial blenderized enteral formula through real-world data. *Nutr Clin Prac*. 2023;38(2):449-457.

(3) Penituk SP., et al. Pureed by gastrostomy tube diet improves gagging and retching in children with fundoplication. *JPEN*. 2011;35:375-379.

(4) Gallagher K., et al. Blenderized Enteral Nutrition Diet Study: Feasibility, Clinical, and Microbiome Outcomes of Providing Blenderized Feeds Through a Gastric Tube in a Medically Complex Pediatric Population. *JPEN*. 2018;42(6):1046-1060.

(5) 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.

(6) Schmidt S., et al. The effect of a natural food based tube feeding in minimizing diarrhea in critically ill neurological patients. *Clin Nutr*. 2019;38(1):332-350.

(7) Fabiana A., et al. Impact of a natural versus commercial enteral-feeding on the occurrence of diarrhea in critically ill cardiac surgery patients. A retrospective cohort study. *Int J Nurs Stud.* 2020;108:103605.

(8) Spurlock A., et al. Blenderized food tube feeding in patients with head and neck cancer. *Nutr Clin Pra*c. 2022;37(3):615-624.