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

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

(Insurance Company)

From: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hospital or Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Print Physician’s Name)

**SUBJECT: Request for coverage/reimbursement for Real Food Blends™ Blenderized Tube Feeding**

I am requesting insurance coverage and reimbursement on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_\_-year old patient who has been under my care since \_\_\_/\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_\_\_. I have prescribed Real Food Blends™ blenderized tube feeding for the management of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*.*

*Verify medical necessity for Real Food Blends***™** *meals, including: diagnosis, documented failure or intolerance to other formulas, current height/weight, tracking on growth chart, history of weight loss, pertinent lab results, medications, potential outcome if Real Food Blends meals are denied.*

The use of Real Food Blends™ blenderized tube feeding is a key factor in the medical management for this individual.

Real Food Blends™ blenderized tube-feeding is designed to complement standard polymeric tube feedings. These products are intended for the nutritional management of those patients with special health needs and/or those requiring a long-term tube feeding regimen and the desire for a real food component. There is a concern that an individual who is denied coverage for a commercially blenderized feeding may try to prepare a homemade formula, thus increasing the potential for bacterial contamination and the associated risks. Real Food Blends™ are:

* 100% real food ingredients
* ~330 calories per 267g (9.4 oz.) serving
* No preservatives
* Made with no artificial colors or flavors
* No dairy, no tree nuts, no peanuts and no soy

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Product** | **HCPCS Code** | **NDC Format Code\***  **(Source: First Data Bank)** | **Kcal/Pouch** | **Quantity**  **(# of pouches)** | **Time Period (in months)** |
| Real Food Blends™ Orange Chicken, Carrots & Brown Rice | B4149 | 82045-0497-46 | 340 |  |  |
| Real Food Blends™  Salmon, Oats & Squash | B4149 | 82045-0497-47 | 330 |  |  |
| Real Food Blends™  Quinoa, Kale & Hemp | B4149 | 82045-0497-48 | 330 |  |  |
| Real Food Blends™  Beef, Potatoes & Spinach | B4149 | 82045-0497-49 | 330 |  |  |
| Real Food Blends™  Eggs, Apples & Oats | B4149 | 82045-0497-50 | 320 |  |  |
| Real Food Blends™  Turkey, Sweet Potatoes & Peaches | B4149 | 16417-0781-85 | 320 |  |  |

\*Real Food Blends does not represent these 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.

Real Food Blends™ Blenderized Meals are recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as “an enteral formula, manufactured blenderized natural foods with intact nutrients…administered through an enteral feeding tube”, found in HCPCS Category B4149. Your approval for this reimbursement will make a positive difference in the health of this patient. Thank you for reviewing this request. Please contact me should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

(Physician’s Signature)

(Phone or Email)