

Commercial Blenderized Tube Feeding (CBTF) for Outpatients

Criteria for Use - November 2025

VA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services and National Formulary Committee in coordination with the VHA Dietary Supplement Work Group

The following recommendations are based on medical evidence, clinician input, and expert opinion. The content of the document is dynamic and will be revised as new information becomes available. The purpose of this document is to assist practitioners in clinical decision-making, to standardize and improve the quality of patient care, and to promote cost-effective drug prescribing. THE CLINICIAN SHOULD USE THIS GUIDANCE AND INTERPRET IT IN THE CLINICAL CONTEXT OF THE INDIVIDUAL PATIENT. INDIVIDUAL CASES THAT ARE EXCEPTIONS TO THE EXCLUSION AND INCLUSION CRITERIA SHOULD BE ADJUDICATED AT THE LOCAL FACILITY ACCORDING TO THE POLICY AND PROCEDURES OF ITS P&T COMMITTEE AND PHARMACY SERVICES.

The Product Information should be consulted for detailed prescribing information.

Exclusion Criteria

Veteran does not meet criteria for CBTF if any of the following are true:

- Consult to VA Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) is not completed
- Does not meet criteria for tube feeding or oral nutrition supplementation
- CBTF is not recommended by VA RDN

Inclusion Criteria

Veteran meets criteria for CBTF with one or more of the following justifications:

- Veteran has a food related allergy that excludes the trial of other standard non-blenderized formulas (including but not limited to dairy, soy, corn, nuts or gluten)
- Standard formulary options¹ have been attempted and were not tolerated. Formulas attempted and tolerance symptoms² are documented in the RDN progress notes.
- Specific disease states as documented by the RDN prevent the use of standard formula.

Footnotes

1. VA Formulary options include Jevity 1.5 and Nutren 1.5
2. Common reasons for intolerance to standard formulary options include severe food related allergies, and gastrointestinal disorder or surgery that results in symptoms such as malabsorption, maldigestion, dysmotility, severe reflux, and refractory diarrhea.

Dosage and Administration

- Dosing to be determined by RDN nutrition assessment and recommendation.
- Dosing must be documented in request and/or RDN assessment.
- CBTF products approved on the National NFS Dietary Supplement contract (subject to change):
 1. **Compleat Standard 1.4 Vanilla for tube feeding or oral nutrition supplementation** — Plant based-vegan, high calorie, nutritionally complete formula. Formula is free of common allergen, including dairy, soy, nuts, wheat, and corn. One carton contains 250 ml, 350 calories, and 18 g protein.
 2. **Kate Farms Peptide for tube feeding**---Organic Plant-based Peptide, vegan tube feeding formula for those with impaired GI function or malabsorption and intolerance to other formulas. Free of common allergens including dairy, nuts, corn, wheat, and soy. One carton contains 325 ml, 500 calories, and 24 g protein.
 3. **Compleat Organic Blends for tube feeding or oral consumption.** Made with organic whole foods plus vitamins and minerals. Plant based/vegan or chicken blend varieties made without common allergens. 1 pouch contains 300 ml, 380 calories, and 19g protein.

Monitoring

- Requires routine follow up by RDN annually or more often as needed.
 - RDN documentation will include justification for CBTF, monitoring for formula tolerance, appropriateness, and progress towards meeting defined therapeutic goal(s).
 - Reassessment by an RDN is required prior to prescription renewals.

Issues for Consideration

- When Veteran no longer meets criteria for CBTF, RDN will discontinue or recommend that CBTF prescription be discontinued as appropriate.

Renewal Consideration

- Reassessment by RDN is required for renewal of CBTF prescription.

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