



JULY 2021

MALNUTRITION CONNECTION

Providing Malnutrition Awareness and Advocacy Information to Share

Support the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act

The Medical Nutrition Therapy Act was introduced in the 117th U.S. Congress in May 2021 ([H.R. 3108](#) | [S. 1536](#)). This legislation, which is championed by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, a Defeat Malnutrition Today member, would allow Medicare beneficiaries to access the care they need by providing coverage for Medical Nutrition Therapy for a variety of chronic conditions under Medicare Part B. The bill was introduced by Sens. Susan Collins (Maine) and Gary Peters (Mich.) and Reps. Robin Kelly (Ill.) and Fred Upton (Mich.). Access to MNT is especially critical for communities of color that suffer from chronic disease health disparities driven by reduced access to care, healthy foods and safe places to be active.

The MNT Act amends the Social Security Act to:

- Provide Medicare Part B coverage of outpatient MNT for prediabetes, obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, malnutrition, eating disorders, cancer, gastrointestinal diseases including celiac disease, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular disease and any other disease or condition causing unintentional weight loss;
- Authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to include other diseases based on medical necessity; and
- Allow nurse practitioners, physician's assistants, clinical nurse specialists and psychologists to refer their patients for MNT.



Learn more about the history of Medicare MNT coverage, barriers to care for older adults, health equity and additional talking points on the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act on the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics backgrounder](#).



Defeat Malnutrition Today is urging members of Congress to cosponsor and support passage of the bill. Reach out to your legislators today to encourage support! **Dietitians:** [Click Here](#)
Non-dietitians: [Click Here](#)

Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) Defined

MNT is nutritional diagnostic, therapy, and counseling services for the purpose of disease management which are furnished by a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN) or nutrition professional.

SOCIAL MEDIA:



Passage of the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act would be a win-win for health care professionals and our communities. Your support is needed for this important piece of legislation. Learn more about the [#ACTnowforMNT](#) campaign and add your support: <https://sm.eatright.org/ACTnowforMNT>

I joined [@eatrightPRO's #ACTnowforMNT](#) campaign! Congress needs to hear from us about the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act. Learn more: <https://sm.eatright.org/ACTnowforMNT>