



nana sp
National Voice. Local Action.

Recently Introduced MNT Act of 2021 Expands Access to Nutrition Care

Most Medicare beneficiaries have at least one chronic condition and more than [two-thirds](#) live with multiple chronic conditions. **What they don't have is ready access to nutrition care.** Studies have shown that Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) is a cost-effective service for treating [obesity](#), [diabetes](#), [hypertension](#), [dyslipidemia](#), [HIV infection](#), [unintended weight loss](#) and other chronic conditions in older adults. Counseling provided by a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN) as part of a healthcare team can positively impact [weight](#), [blood pressure](#), [blood lipids](#) and [blood sugar control](#).

The Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2021 ([S. 1536/H.R. 3108](#)) recently introduced by Sens. Susan Collins (R-ME) and Gary Peters (D-MI) and Reps. Robin Kelly (D-IL) and Fred Upton (R-MI) would expand much needed MNT access for Medicare recipients, including:

- Expanding Medicare Part B coverage of outpatient MNT to beneficiaries with 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;
- Allowing nurse practitioners, physician assistants, clinical nurse specialists and psychologists to refer their patients for MNT; and
- [Promoting health equity among minority communities with higher rates of nutrition-related chronic diseases.](#)

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

Reach out to your legislators today to encourage their support!

- Dietitians: [Click Here](#)
- Non-dietitians: [Click Here](#)