



Home Delivered Meals

In Lieu Of Policy ID: ILO.08

Recent review date: 5/2025

Next review date: 5/2027

Policy contains: Home delivered meals, medically tailored home delivered meals, nutritional counseling

AmeriHealth Caritas has developed In Lieu Of policies to assist with making coverage determinations for medically appropriate services outside required MCO Covered Services or settings (or beyond the service limits established by LDH for MCO Covered Services.

AmeriHealth Caritas' In Lieu Of services are provided to Enrollees, at their option, as a cost-effective alternative to an MCO Covered Service or Setting.

LDH has determined that this In Lieu Of service is a medically appropriate and cost-effective substitute for the MCO Covered Service or setting under the Louisiana Medicaid State Plan.

Coverage policy

Members aged 18 and older with food insecurity who are being discharged from inpatient setting, exhibiting evidence of malnourishment, and/or members with complex medical needs and unable to prepare meals will be identified for inclusion the Home Delivered Meals program. This includes members with primary behavioral health diagnoses and pregnant women. All members are screened for their desire to participate in the program and ability to receive food delivery. Meals will be medically tailored to members' needs as identified. Food providers will provide delivery of home delivered meals to identified members who meet program criteria. Nutritional counseling will be available to participating members with identified needs. Provision is limited to 2 meals/day and 10 meals/week for up to eight-month period, with ability to reauthorize based on member reassessment and need.

Unit of Service:

CPT	Description
S5170	Home delivered meals, including preparation; per meal
S5170-AC	Medically tailored home delivered meals, including preparation; per meal
S9470	Nutritional counseling, dietician visit

Provider Qualifications

Providers of medically tailored and home-delivered meals, located in the U.S., who meet the following standards:

- In-State Providers must meet current state standards for providers of home delivered meals as specified in the Louisiana Administrative Code Title 51 Public Health Sanitary Code Part XXIII, or sub-contract with entities who meet these requirements.
- Out-of-State Providers must meet current federal standards for providers of home delivered meals as specified in Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 9 Section 300 et seq.

Background

LDH has approved an AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana “in lieu of” (ILO) benefit for members at high risk for nutritional deficits which may impact health outcomes and result in more intensive service utilization.

Reporting

Claims for these services will be reported in encounter data inclusive of the following codes: S5170, S5170-AC, S9470.

Expected Outcomes

Anticipated outcomes from participating in this ILO include:

- Addressing food insecurity in members with nutritional status as a significant SDOH factor.
- Improved nutritional status and outcomes in chronic conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and renal failure, and pregnancy as evidenced by:
 - Reduced admissions and readmissions in enrolled members as compared to similar non-enrolled individuals.
 - Reduction in ED utilization.
 - Reduction in overall medical costs of members enrolled in program as compared to similar non-enrolled individuals.

Policy updates

5/2025: initial review date and ILO policy effective date: 7/2025