

**5 EVERY TIME**

- ☐ **1. Qualifying diagnosis.** Diabetes mellitus or qualifying renal disease. Maintenance-dialysis services are excluded from the separate renal MNT benefit.
- ☐ **2. MD/DO referral.** Medicare MNT referral must be made by a physician, defined for this benefit as an MD or DO.
- ☐ **3. Diagnosis stated.** Identify diabetes or qualifying renal disease. Including the applicable ICD-10-CM code is operationally helpful.
- ☐ **4. Physician record supports it.** Document the qualifying diagnosis and the physician decision/referral for MNT.
- ☐ **5. Authenticated, dated, NPI available.** Authenticate and date the documentation/order and provide the individual physician NPI to the MNT provider.

4 SPECIAL SITUATIONS

- ☐ **6. New calendar year?** Obtain a new physician referral for follow-up MNT.
- ☐ **7. New episode of care?** Obtain a physician referral for each episode of care.
- ☐ **8. Additional hours?** Obtain a second/additional physician referral before exceeding the standard annual hours.
- ☐ **9. Why extra hours?** Document a change in diagnosis, medical condition, or treatment regimen related to diabetes or renal disease that requires a change in MNT.

QUICK BENEFIT CHECK

- 3 -> 2 -> +: Initial calendar year up to 3 hours; later calendar years up to 2 hours with a new referral; additional hours through the qualifying-change pathway.
- A numeric ICD-10-CM code is useful operationally, but national MNT rules do not expressly make it a required referral-document field.
- A face sheet, automatic latest office note, recent face-to-face visit solely for MNT, and supervising-physician signature specifically are not universal national requirements.
- Receiving facilities may request additional intake information.

COPY-READY EXAMPLES

Chart support: Patient has [diabetes mellitus / qualifying renal disease]. Medical Nutrition Therapy is medically indicated. Referral for Medicare-covered MNT placed today.

Referral wording: Refer for Medical Nutrition Therapy for [qualifying diagnosis / ICD-10-CM]. Medicare MNT referral made by MD/DO.