

### Home-Delivered Meals for LTSS members

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<b>Approved By:</b>	Highmark Health Options – Market Leadership
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### Disclaimer

Highmark Health Options (HHO) medical policy is intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding coverage for the services described. This policy does not constitute medical advice and is not intended to govern or otherwise influence medical decisions.

### POLICY STATEMENT

This policy is intended to provide guidance to health care providers and billers for the utilization and reimbursement of home delivered meals for HHO LTSS members.

### DEFINITIONS

**Highmark Health Options (HHO)** – Managed care organization serving vulnerable populations that have complex needs and qualify for Medicaid. Highmark Health Options members include individuals and families with low income, expecting mothers, children, and people with disabilities. Members pay nothing to very little for their health coverage. Highmark Health Options currently services Delaware Medicaid: Delaware Healthy Children Program (DHCP) and Diamond State Health Plus LTSS (DSHP Plus LTSS) members.

**Home Delivered Meal** – Preparation, packaging and delivery of one or more meals to individuals who are unable to prepare or obtain nourishing meals.

### POLICY POSITION

A prior authorization is required.

LTSS Members are eligible to receive up to two home-delivered meals per day.

Criteria for these free meals:

- Nutritionally well-balanced meals, other than those provided under Title III C-2 of the Older Americans Act or through Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) funds.
- Provides at least one-third but no more than two-thirds of the current daily recommended dietary allowance.
- Must be delivered to the member's home.

**SPECIAL DIET OR REQUESTS**

Members who have a special diet shall have meals provided in accordance with the member’s plan of care when ordered by the member’s physician.

**NONCOVERED SERVICES**

- Home-delivered meals are not available to members who reside in assisted living or nursing facilities.
- Meals are not to be delivered to adult day care programs or senior centers.

**PROCEDURE CODE(S)**

Code	Description
<b>S5170</b>	Home Delivered Meals, Including Preparation; Per Meal

**MODIFIER (S)**

Code	Description
<b>ET</b>	Emergency meal
<b>U1</b>	Fresh meal
<b>-</b>	Frozen (no modifier)

Under certain qualifying emergency circumstances, such as weather emergencies, the HHO provider may request and coordinate emergency meals for LTSS members over and above the regular delivery of home delivered meals. Emergency meals would require additional authorization.

**References**

CMS.gov  
MSA

**POLICY UPDATE HISTORY**
