

*Template Letter of Medical Necessity**

To: _____ **Date:** _____
(Insurance Company)

From: _____
(Physician's Name)

SUBJECT: Insurance Coverage Request for Vital® HN

I am requesting insurance coverage and reimbursement of *Vital HN* for my patient, _____. The use of a peptide-based elemental formula such as *Vital HN* is a key component of the medical management for this patient.

Patient Information (to be completed by the physician)

- PATIENT'S NAME
- DOB
- CURRENT WEIGHT
- CURRENT HEIGHT
- # OF MONTHS/YEARS UNDER MY CARE
- DIAGNOSIS
- OTHER (if applicable)

Based on my patient's current medical condition, I am prescribing _____ CALORIES, kcal /
_____ OUNCES per day

Vital HN is a nutritionally complete peptide-based elemental formula for the nutritional management of adult patients experiencing gastrointestinal (GI) disease, GI dysfunction, maldigestion, malabsorption, or symptoms of GI intolerance. In comparison with formulas containing only free amino acids or intact protein, peptide-based formulas provide better absorption, better tolerance, and better maintenance of GI-tract function.¹⁻⁴ This formulation is low fat, with 9.5% of the calories from fat (10.8 g fat per liter), and provides a balanced blend of medium and long chain triglycerides. *Vital HN* is available in powdered form and provides 1 kcal/ml and 300 calories per serving at standard dilution.

Vital HN is specifically designed to meet the nutritional needs of adults with malabsorption, maldigestion or GI impairment due to conditions such as the following*:

- Intestinal Malabsorption (579.0-579.9)
- Regional enteritis (Crohn's Disease) (555.0-555.1)
- Ulcerative Colitis (556.0-556.9)
- Pancreatitis (577.0-577.9)
- Short bowel syndrome (579.3)
- Cystic Fibrosis (277.0)
- Celiac Disease (579.0)
- Lactose sensitivity (271.3)
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection (042)
- Liver Transplant (996.82)
- Trauma (959.0-959.9)
- Sepsis (995.91)
- Burn (949.0-949.5)
- Functional digestive disorders, not elsewhere classified (564.0-564.9)
- Other and unspecified noninfectious gastroenteritis and colitis (558.1-558.9)
- Other conditions in which an elemental peptide-based formulation would be beneficial (e.g., tube feeding-associated GI intolerance, critical illness-associated GI dysfunction, early enteral feeding, transition from TPN)

Vital HN is a medical food that must be used under medical supervision. This product is not sold over the counter and most pharmacies and homecare suppliers have policies that require a prescription to purchase these types of formulas. A prescription helps assure the supplier is providing the appropriate product and the patient is receiving medical supervision.

Your approval of this request for reimbursement of **Vital HN** will make a significant difference in the health of this patient.

Sincerely,

(Physician's Signature)

(Physician's Printed Name)

Enclosure(s): Prescription, Doctor's Notes and Reports, etc

1. Daniel H. Molecular and integrative physiology of intestinal peptide transport. *Annu Rev Physiol* 2004; 66:361-384.
2. Zaloga GP. Intact proteins, peptides, and amino acid formulas. In Zaloga GP (ed). *Nutrition in Critical Care*. St Louis: Mosby; 1994:59-80.
3. Brinson RR, Kolts BE. Diarrhea associated with severe hypoalbuminemia: a comparison of a peptide-based chemically defined diet and standard enteral alimentation. *Crit Care Med* 1988; 16:130-136.
4. Brinson RR, Kolts BE. Hypoalbuminemia as an indicator of diarrheal incidence in critically ill patients. *Crit Care Med* 1987; 15:506-509.

Product and Reimbursement Information for Vital HN

Name	Packaging	Calories per Packet	NDC-format Code**	HCPCS Code
Vital HN	79-g packets; 6 packets/carton; 4 cartons/case	300	70074-0407-66	B4153

*This letter is intended to be used as a template and customized by the physician for each patient. The list of diagnoses and ICD-9 codes contained in this letter is not all-inclusive. It is ultimately the responsibility of the health care professional/persons associated with the patient's care to determine and document the appropriate diagnosis(es) and code(s) for the patient's condition. Abbott Nutrition does not guarantee that the use of any information provided in this letter will result in coverage or payment by any third-party payer.

**Abbott Nutrition does not represent these codes to be actual National Drug Codes (NDCs). NDC-format codes are product codes adjusted according to standard industry practice to meet the format requirements of pharmacy and health insurance systems.