

Template Letter of Medical Necessity*

To: _____ Date: _____
(Insurance Company)

From: _____
(Physician's Name)

SUBJECT: Insurance Coverage Request for Vital AF 1.2 Cal™

I am requesting insurance coverage and reimbursement of *Vital AF 1.2 Cal* for my patient, _____. The use of a peptide-based elemental formula such as *Vital AF 1.2 Cal* 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 AF 1.2 Cal is a nutritionally complete peptide-based elemental formula designed with functional ingredients to help manage inflammation, gastrointestinal (GI) dysfunction and 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 and, with whey-dominant peptides, they promote faster gastric emptying than casein-based formulas.⁵

Vital AF 1.2 Cal also contains fish oil-based structured lipid, which has been clinically shown to reduce GI complications and infections in post-surgical GI cancer patients.⁶ The addition of prebiotic NutraFlora® scFOS® increases the production of short chain fatty acids, which is helpful in the management of diarrhea,⁷ and the elevated protein and vitamin D₃ help meet the increased nutritional needs of metabolically stressed patients.^{8,9} EPA and DHA from fish oil help modulate inflammation and support immune function.^{10,11}

Vital AF 1.2 Cal 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 AF 1.2 Cal 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 AF 1.2 Cal* 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.
5. Fried MD, Khoshoo V, Secker DJ, Gilday DL, Ash JM, Pencharz PB. Decrease in gastric emptying time and episodes of regurgitation in children with spastic quadriplegia fed a whey-based formula. *J Pediatr* 1992; 120:569-572.
6. Kenler AS, Swails WS, Driscoll DF, DeMichele SJ, Daley B, Babineau TJ, Peterson MB, Bistran BR. Early enteral feeding in postsurgical cancer patients. Fish oil structured lipid-based polymeric formula versus a standard polymeric formula. *Ann Surg* 1996; 223:316-333.
7. Bowling TE, Raimundo AH, Grimbale GK, Silk DB. Reversal by short-chain fatty acids of colonic fluid secretion induced by enteral feeding. *Lancet* 342, 1266-1268. 1993.
8. Lee P, Nair P, Eisman JA, Center JR. Vitamin D deficiency in the intensive care unit: an invisible accomplice to morbidity and mortality? *Intensive Care Med* 2009; 35:2028-2032.
9. Lee P, Eisman JA, Center JR. Vitamin D deficiency in critically ill patients. *N Engl J Med* 2009; 360:1912-1914.
10. Calder PC. The 2008 ESPEN Sir David Cuthbertson Lecture: Fatty acids and inflammation--from the membrane to the nucleus and from the laboratory bench to the clinic. *Clin Nutr* 2010; 29:5-12.
11. Calder PC. The relationship between the fatty acid composition of immune cells and their function. *Prostaglandins Leukot Essent Fatty Acids* 2008; 79:101-108.

Product and Reimbursement Information for Vital AF 1.2 Cal

Name	Packaging	Calories per Container	NDC-format Code**	HCPCS Code
Vital AF 1.2 Cal	8-fl-oz can (24 per case)	284	70074-0565-43	B4153
Vital AF 1.2 Cal	1000-mL Ready-to-Hang (8 per case)	1200	70074-0565-45	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.