

# PEHP Report on Pilot Program for Amino Acid-based Formula

November 30, 2019

## Background -

HB 400 requires the state health plan to provide coverage of amino acid-based formula for members diagnosed with eosinophilic gastrointestinal disorder, food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome, severe protein allergic condition, or short bowel syndrome. Typically, formula is covered when administered through a feeding tube. The current study tests coverage of orally administered formula. The purpose is to study the efficacy of providing coverage for use of an amino acid-based formula. Coverage began on July 1, 2017 and concludes June 30, 2020 and is limited to members of the State risk pool.

## Notification –

Members with a claim for one of the diagnosis above were eligible to participate and the Members or parents were notified of the program each year (July 2017, 2018, 2019). In addition, physicians likely to treat eligible patients were notified in July of 2017. Since notification began, 85 individuals with a claim for eosinophilic gastrointestinal disorder, food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome, severe protein allergic condition, or short bowel syndrome were identified and notified.

## Participation –

During the study period, one member received amino acid-based formula. A total of one request for coverage of amino acid-based formula was received.

## Cost -

	7/1/17 – 6/30/18	7/1/18 – 6/30/19	7/1/19 – 7/31/19
Amino Acid-Based Formula	\$11,374	\$9,204	\$635
Medical Cost	\$34,696	\$41,219	\$2,445
Total Cost	\$46,070	\$50,423	\$3,080

- Amino Acid-Based Formula cost = the cost to acquire amino acid-based formula
- Medical Cost = the cost of all pharmacy and medical claims excluding amino acid-based formula
- Total Cost = the cost of all medical and pharmacy claims

## Efficacy Measures –

Available data indicates the member no longer has a feeding tube, receives amino acid-based formula, gained weight each year since removing the feeding tube and starting formula, and currently gains a “normal” amount of weight per day (5-12g). However, we have not seen a decrease in the number or types of other claims incurred by the member which we were hoping to see. In general, PEHP does not cover food products, like formula.

## Limitations –

The primary limitation is lower than expected participation. The experience above may not be generalizable to broad populations.