

Medical Foods

The Genetics Policy Hub (GPH), a program of the National Coordinating Center for the Regional Genetics Networks, is a policy education website where you can explore state-based policies, ranging from Medicaid to policies being proposed by state governments to federal policies, ranging from proposed legislation to policy statements written by professional organizations. This policy overview highlights the data within GPH related to genetics privacy. This document is for informational purposes only, and specific questions about the information presented should be directed to the government agencies or organizations discussed. If you have questions about our methodology or feedback on what should be added to GPH, please get in touch with geneticpolicy@nccrcg.org.

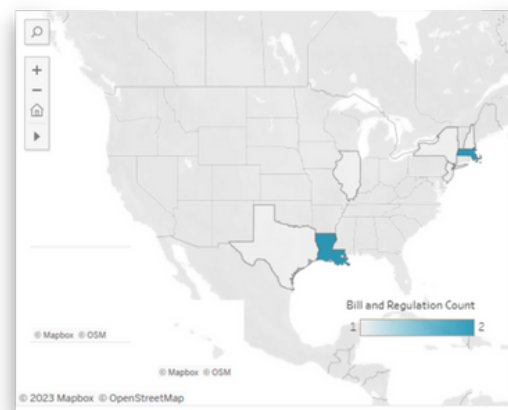
Medical nutrition refers to medical food products that are used for the nutritional management of a condition or disease. One well-known example of medical nutrition can be seen in the case of children with phenylketonuria (PKU) who cannot process foods with phenylalanine properly. If they eat food with phenylalanine, their body cannot convert it to tyrosine. The phenylalanine will cause intellectual disability. To avoid this, they must eat a PKU diet that includes medical nutrition.

Proposed Legislation and Regulation

Updated weekly

8 Pieces of legislation and regulation are currently proposed related to genetics privacy.

The proposed legislative efforts are mainly related to coverage of medical foods. Some of the proposed bills provide general criteria of what medical foods would be covered; other legislation specifies which conditions should be covered.



<https://geneticpolicy.nccrcg.org/legislative-policies/>

Medicaid Policies

Updated annually each fall

81% Medicaid programs have policies related to medical foods

Most policies relate to when and how medical foods are covered in a Medicaid program. Some programs provide general coverage guidance, while others specify which genetic conditions are covered.



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Policy Statements

Updated as needed

6 Policy statements related to genetics privacy from professional organizations

Professional organizations write policy statements to communicate what they believe is best for their community. Healthcare provider organizations (such as Genetic Metabolic Dietitians International) and patient organizations (such as the National Organization for Rare Disease) have statements supporting medical foods' coverage.

<https://geneticpolicy.nccrcg.org/policy-area/medical-foods/>