

CLINICIAN SUMMARY

Nutrition Support and the National Disability Insurance Scheme in NSW

Nutrition Network

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a new way of providing funding for care and other supports (such as equipment) for eligible people with disability less than 65 years of age. The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is an independent statutory agency and their role is to implement the NDIS.

NSW is transitioning to the NDIS over the 14 months. During this transition period, it is important that NSW Health clinicians are aware of the care and supports that may be available within the NDIS for people needing nutrition support at home.

This factsheet answers some commonly asked questions about nutrition support and the NDIS.

Nutrition support products and services may be funded by the NDIS if the products and services will help the person achieve their personal goals, and if they help meet their personal and disability support needs. Please visit [the NDIS website](#) for more information and refer to local NDIS protocols.

Note

- The focus for the NDIS in the transition period is to transfer the care of people who are already receiving specialist disability supports through NSW Family and Community Services (FACS) to NDIS providers.
- In Year 1 of the transition there was only a small allocation of 'New' packages. These are being used for people with the most need, including people needing nutrition support who may be unable to receive supports without the NDIS.
- For all other non-urgent new applicants, the NDIA will assess and prioritise access on a case by case basis.

How do I know if my client is eligible for the NDIS?

- To become an NDIS Participant, individuals need to meet the age, residency and disability or early intervention access requirements.
- People can check their potential eligibility for the NDIS by completing the online [Access Checklist](#) or by calling the NDIA on 1800 800 110.
- As all decisions on eligibility are made by the NDIA based upon a valid application, ask the participant if they have applied and received confirmation of eligibility – if so, they will have an NDIA number.

Which nutrition support products and services may be included in an NDIS plan?

- ✓ Consumables – feeding sets, enteral dispensers/syringes, enteral feeding tubes/devices and accessories.
- ✓ Nutrition formula, oral nutrition supplements and food thickeners.

Note

The Participant should speak with their planner for more information about reasonable and necessary supports. Refer to the NDIS *Guide to assistive technology (including consumables)* - Support Item: 'Other HEN equipment including additional cost of food when necessary'.

- ✓ Nutrition support services – dietitian, speech pathology and nursing services provided by registered NDIS providers.
- ✓ Equipment – adaptable cutlery, cups, aids etc.
- ✓ Delivery and repair of products.

Note

Feeding pumps are usually provided free on loan by nutrition companies when clients are registered with them.

What information does my client need?

- NSW Health clinicians should provide clear information to the client/carer. This includes:
 - the nutrition support products and services they recommend
 - how these products and services will help them achieve their personal goals
 - details of the supplier and the cost of the items
 - an estimate of the hours required by an NDIS Registered Provider to support the Participant (e.g. per month or per year).
- The [EnableNSW Nutrition Equipment Request Form](#) can be used.
- The information must be provided to an NDIS Planner to help develop the Participant's NDIS plan. The client/carer can provide the information to their Planner or the client/carer can ask the clinician to provide it to the Planner on their behalf.
- Once nutrition support products and/or services are approved within their NDIS plan, the Participant or carer will need to contact their preferred NDIS provider to order their products and arrange ongoing care.

Note

If required, EnableNSW can provide a list of equipment and services the participant is already accessing through EnableNSW to take to their NDIS planning meeting. To request this information, clients or their carers can email enable@health.nsw.gov.au with the subject heading 'Request for Equipment Information for NDIS Planning.'

How do I register my client with suppliers for Nutrition support products?

- NSW Health clinicians should complete the existing HEN registration processes so the client can access the nutrition support products they need while awaiting their NDIS Plan to be approved.
- If the client is later transferred to a NDIS Registered Provider the NDIS Registered Provider will re-register the Participant with the relevant companies.

Can NDIS Participants access nutrition support products from EnableNSW?

- If an existing EnableNSW client is accepted as an NDIS Participant, responsibility for funding nutrition support consumables will move from EnableNSW to the NDIS. EnableNSW will continue to provide assistance until the NDIS Plan is in place.
- EnableNSW is a registered provider to the NDIA and can continue to provide co-ordination of equipment approved in NDIS Plans where the funds are 'Agency Managed' (see next page). This can include:
 - placing orders for new equipment
 - ordering consumable products; or
 - contacting suppliers to arrange repairs).

EnableNSW needs to be included as a supplier in the NDIS Plan, along with a budget for the required services.

- People who are 65 years of age and over are not eligible for entry to the NDIS. If they are eligible for support from EnableNSW they will remain with EnableNSW.
- EnableNSW has developed factsheets on EnableNSW and the NDIS for prescribers and consumers. These can be accessed on the [NDIS page of the EnableNSW website](#).

How much do NDIS Participants pay for nutrition support products?

- NSW Government Contract (ENSS955) pricing applies when products are:
 - prescribed by a NSW Health clinician or an NDIS Registered Provider (e.g. Accredited Practising Dietitians working as NDIA Registered Dietitian providers); **and**
 - purchased directly from a supplier on the contract.
- Formula and consumables are paid for using approved NDIS funding.
- The cost of products purchased from suppliers that are not on the NSW contract is likely to be higher.

Note

If the Participant chooses to engage a health professional that is not registered with the NDIS, they cannot access the ENSS955 contract prices.

How do NDIS Participants pay for their Nutrition Support products?

- Within Participant plans, 'Home Enteral Nutrition' is included in the Core Support budget under the category of Consumables (Support Category 003).
- The NDIS plan will provide funding for nutrition support in the Agency Managed Budget A001 or Self-Managed Budget 0001.

AGENCY MANAGED (NDIA)

- If the chosen supplier is a NDIS Registered Provider and is therefore able to claim payment directly from the NDIA 'Provider Portal', your client can elect to have their nutrition support funds managed by the Agency.
- The Provider will draw down funds from the nutrition support budget through the Provider Portal to pay for the products after an order is placed.

SELF MANAGED

If the chosen supplier is not a NDIS Registered Provider and therefore unable to use the NDIA Provider Portal*, the nutrition support funds must be participant managed. When a Participant places an order for nutrition support products they can:

- pay up front and then have the funds refunded through the NDIA Participant Portal; or
- draw funds from their NDIS plan to pay for the products.

*Some nutrition companies are 'manufacturers' and cannot be NDIS Registered Providers. Therefore they cannot use the NDIA Provider Portal and Participants can only purchase products directly from these companies if they are self-managing their NDIS packages.

Note

Participants need to discuss with their Planner about which parts, or the whole, of their NDIS plan they would like to be Agency Managed or Self-Managed. For example, fund management cannot be swapped and changed once a plan is in place. It has to be pre-arranged during NDIS plan development.

How can NDIS Participants find an NDIS Registered Dietitian Provider?

- NDIS registered dietitian providers must be Accredited Practising Dietitians (APDs).
- APDs working as NDIS Registered providers are listed on the Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) website [Find an Accredited Practising Dietitian](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- For further information about the NDIS:
 - call the NDIS hotline 1800 800 110
 - visit the [NSW Government NDIS website](#)
 - visit the [NDIS website](#)
- The NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) has developed a range of resources for clinicians and consumers about HEN in NSW. These can be accessed on the [ACI website](#).

ABOUT THE ACI

The Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) works with clinicians, consumers and managers to design and promote better healthcare for NSW. Our Clinical Networks, Taskforces and Institutes provide a unique forum for people to collaborate to develop successful healthcare innovations. We support the case for change using evidence, health economics and evaluation. **Learn more at:** www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au

Prepared by: ACI Nutrition Network with input from the NSW Ministry of Health, EnableNSW and the National Disability Insurance Agency – Hunter region.

Please note: this factsheet is based on information available at the time of release.