



Senate Human Services Committee
SB 2224
January 25, 2021

Chair Lee and Committee Members, I am Courtney Koebele, the Executive Director of the North Dakota Medical Association. The North Dakota Medical Association is the professional membership organization for North Dakota physicians, residents, and medical students.

NDMA supports SB 2224 and the reimbursement for metabolic supplements by ND Medicaid.

Federal regulations establish a committee to advise the state's Medicaid agency and its Medicaid director on health and medical care services. This committee is called the Medicaid Medical Advisory Committee (MMAC).

This year, North Dakota's MMAC created a Codes/Services Review sub-committee to offer recommendations to Medicaid for additional coverage for applications for coverage of seven different codes and services. That committee consisted of eleven members from the MMAC. The MMAC codes and services sub-committee met five times over the course of the summer to review the codes submitted. The committee received expert presentations on all the issues, and reviewed the detailed applications and attachments explaining the need for the services. The committee scored each service on seven factors: cost, number of patients impacted, whether it was covered by private insurance, proven efficacy, essential for health and well-being; whether it was a noncovered essential component of a service that is covered by Medicaid; and finally whether the service is covered by other insurance or organizations.

The subcommittee rated this coverage high because the supplements are life sustaining and the relatively low number of people that would need to receive them.

NDMA would support any amendments to make the application of this narrower and more precise.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions.