

## Medical Statement

For a CE to make a meal accommodation for a student with a medical disability that is not addressed by a choice of food items within an existing cycle menu, the household must provide a written medical statement. For a medical statement to be valid, it must be written by a medical authority licensed to write prescriptions by the State.<sup>8</sup>

A medical statement must include the following information in order for the CE to make a meal accommodation:

1. Explanation of the student's disability which includes a description that is sufficient to allow the CE to understand how this condition restricts the student's diet and what major life activity is affected by the disability.

*[NOTE: The medical statement does not have to include the word disability or name the student's disability. Instead, it must provide sufficient information for the CE to determine that there is medical condition that is a disability and how that medical condition affects the student's participation in the meal program.]*

2. Description of the accommodation to be made: food items or ingredients to be omitted, special dietary supplements, food items or ingredients to be substituted and other accommodation information as appropriate.

*[NOTE: A CE is not required to provide name brand products as a substitute for a food item if another product with the same specifications is available. If the medical statement requires a name brand product, the CE should contact the household, and the medical authority as appropriate, in order to identify the ingredients that must be included or excluded from the student's meal to ensure that the an alternate substitution will meet the same need.]*

When a meal meets the specifications described in the medical statement, even if the meal does not meet the meal pattern, the meal is reimbursable.

### Additional Meals

If a medical statement includes a specification that the student must have breakfast each morning and the site does not operate the SBP, the CE is not required to provide breakfast unless the specification is also included in a student's individualized education program (IEP).

*It is important* for the CE to remember that it is not the CE's responsibility to verify that a disability exists or establish standards for what is a disability. A CE cannot request medical records or medical charts related to the disability as part of the medical statement. That is the responsibility of medical authority. If a medical authority provides adequate information in the medical statement, the CE must accept the medical statement as describing a valid medical disability.

---

<sup>8</sup> See the *Definitions for This Section* subsection in this section for additional information on this topic.