



Nutritional supplements are available to be subsidised by DVA for eligible veterans and war widow(er)s* on an individual patient basis. The product must be clinically required and recommended by a Dietitian. They are supplied as a pharmaceutical item and as such need to be prescribed on a Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS) Authority prescription. Once approved, prescriptions are to be dispensed at the veteran's preferred pharmacy.

- Assessment by a Dietitian who determines the type and quantity of nutritional supplement required by the patient.
- The Dietitian sends a recommendation by fax to both the **Patient's Prescribing Doctor** and **VAPAC** (Veterans Affairs Pharmaceutical Advisory Centre in the QLD Office, Brisbane) Fax (07) 3223 8651. The recommendation is to include the product required, including pack size, daily usage, diagnosis of the problem requiring nutritional supplements and date of next review. Use the **Request for Nutritional Supplementation** form on page 3.
- The Prescribing Doctor will need to write an authority prescription and phone VAPAC for approval on **freecall 1800 552 580**.
- The quantity approved is 1 month's supply. Repeats may be granted in line with the patient's needs and stability of treatment to a maximum of 5. It is a requirement that the patient be re-assessed by a Dietitian after 6 months to determine their ongoing need, and tolerance of the chosen supplement. A new **Request for Nutritional Supplements** form is to be re-submitted by the Dietitian at this time.
- For supply of product, the approved prescription is dispensed by the patient's preferred pharmacy. The patient is charged the standard patient contribution for each prescription. These dispensings count towards the Safety Net. There is no delivery charge incurred. The pharmacy may contact VAPAC for any assistance in obtaining the product if required.
- Equipment required to administer the product may be obtained through the Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP) on **1800 550 457**.
- To expedite supply of nutritional products, it may be useful for the Dietitian to confirm that the Prescribing Doctor has received the recommendation; and to suggest to the patient that they make an appointment with the doctor to obtain the authority prescription. This prescription should be presented to the pharmacy to enable ordering of product and subsequent supply.

If this request is being made in a hospital and another Dietitian is required to monitor the patient upon discharge, please either make a written referral directly to another Dietitian, or inform the patient's doctor so that a referral to another Dietitian can be organised.

* Residents in residential aged care facility are only eligible for supplements if they are classified under the Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) as having lower care needs. Residents with greater care needs who have been classified under the (ACFI) as having at least one high domain category or at least two medium domain categories will not have access to supplements under the RPBS. Provision of supplements for these residents is the responsibility of the residential aged care facility.



Prescribing Doctor	Name and contact details of the patient's doctor (prescriber) to whom request is sent. The Doctor will then contact VAPAC for approval of authority prescription for nutritional supplement(s) on freecall 1800 552 580 .
Patient's details	Full name and address of veteran or war widow(er). Current DVA file number (e.g. QX123945, NSS1234A). Current DVA card colour (e.g. Gold, White). <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gold - Repatriation Health Card for All Conditions;• White - Repatriation Health Card for Specific Conditions (only eligible for nutritional products if treatment related to an accepted disability);• Orange - Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Card for Pharmaceuticals only. This includes nutritional products as they are provided through the RPBS. Cost of consultation with a Dietitian is not covered.
Aged Care Facility Residents	Residents in an residential aged care facility are only eligible for nutritional supplements if they are classified under the ACFI as having lower care needs and, as such, do not meet the criteria for greater level care needs. The criteria for greater level care needs have been classified under the ACFI as having at least one high domain category or at least two medium domain categories. Residents with greater care needs that meet this criteria and not eligible for the provision of supplements under the RPBS.
Relevant Clinical Conditions, indications and progress	Clinical states leading to the need for nutritional supplementation (e.g. COAD, weight loss from cancer).
Concurrent Therapeutic Diet Management	Information regarding any concurrent dietary plan which compliments and justifies the product(s) being requested eg HPHE diet, fortifying meals etc.
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Item - specific brand of supplement with strength and pack size if applicable.• Daily Usage - accurate daily usage expressed as volume/weight or number of packs based on presentation of product.• Quantity Required per Month - take into account pack sizes and carton quantities for monthly prescription.• Number of Repeats (max 5) - number of repeats of prescription required for nutritional supplementation to cover duration of treatment only.
Mode of Feeding	Specify Oral, PEG, Jejunostomy, Naso-gastric.
Follow up Plan (Date of Review)	Monitoring schedule for future consultations. For palliative care patients where no further review is considered necessary, a statement to that effect is to be provided in this section of the form i.e. "no further review required". Re-assessment will be required if a different product is needed.

Requesting Dietitian Name, DVA provider number and contact details of Dietitian requesting supplement.

In order to arrange accessories such as external pumps, giving sets, catheter tip syringes, please telephone DVA's Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP) on **1800 550 457** (outside metro areas).

Any authority prescription queries should be referred to VAPAC on **freecall 1800 552 580**.



Request for Nutritional Supplementation

Date / /

1 Prescribing Doctor

Phone no. (Inc. Area Code) []

Fax no. (Inc. Area Code) []

Doctor is to contact DVA to obtain approval for the products requested below on an authority prescription(s) by phoning VAPAC on 1800 552 580.

Alternatively, prescriptions can be mailed in for approval to Reply Paid No. 9998 VAPAC GPO Box 9998 BRISBANE QLD 4001. Once approved, prescriptions are to be dispensed at the veteran's preferred pharmacy.

2 Patient's details

Name

DVA File No.

Eligibility Gold Card White Card Orange Card

Address (Including State and Postcode)

3 Aged Care Facility resident?

No Yes ▶ Level of care

Lower care needs that does not meet the criteria for greater care needs

Greater care needs with an ACFI classification of at least one high domain category or at least two medium domain categories



Supplements are not subsidised by RPBS and are the responsibility of the residential aged care facility

4 Relevant clinical conditions, indications for use and progress

5 Concurrent therapeutic diet management

6 Recommendations

Item	Daily usage	Qty req'd per month	No. repeats (max 5)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

7 Mode of feeding

8 Follow up plan (including date of review)

9 Requesting Dietitian

Phone no. (Inc. Area Code) []

E-mail

Medicare Australia Provider No.

This completed request is to be faxed to **both** VAPAC on **(07) 3223 8651** and the patient's Prescribing Doctor.