

Understanding Special Dietary Needs

Case Study Hand-Out

Case Study A

Tyler

Tyler is diagnosed with autism. He eats the same three things each day, canned peaches, white rice, and black beans with no seasoning. He has a written statement from a licensed physician that explains that Tyler's autism is considered to be a disability. The medical statement provides instruction that while at the child care, all other foods are to be omitted from Tyler's lunch for the time being while his therapists work with him to slowly introduce other foods, and that he should be served these three food items with water each day for lunch. Tyler's parents want the child care to supply his foods for lunch.

Questions

Q1: What must the child care do to be in compliance with the CACFP requirements?

Q2: Can the child care claim Tyler's meals for reimbursement?

Answers

The child care must purchase all 3 foods and serve them to Tyler each day for lunch, as instructed by the dr. The child care cannot require the parents to supply the foods.

Yes, the doctor's statement properly justifies serving lunches that are not in accordance with the CACFP meal pattern.

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Case Study B

Samantha	
<p>Samantha is very sensitive to texture according to her mother. Her mother suspects that she has Asperger’s syndrome, a mild form of Autism. This has not been diagnosed by a licensed physician, but by a holistic doctor without MD credentials. The holistic doctor has provided a written statement that instructs the child care to adhere to the mother’s requests, but does not indicate any diagnosis of Asperger’s syndrome. The mother is requesting that the child care only serve Samantha fruit smoothies (containing strawberries, bananas, yogurt, and milk) for lunch.</p>	
Questions	Answers
<p>Q1: Is the child care required to supply the foods specified by the parent for Samantha’s lunches, only a fruit smoothie?</p>	<p><i>No. It is not justified in writing from a licensed physician. The medical statement must be from a licensed physician, which documents the diagnosis of as a disability in order that the child care be required to provide the requested substitute.</i></p>
<p>Q2: When serving only the fruit smoothie according to the mom’s request for lunch, are all of the required meal components served? If not, which ones are missing?</p>	<p><i>No. The 2nd f/v, grain, and m/ma component.</i></p>
<p>Q3: Can the child care claim Samantha’s lunches for reimbursement if they serve only a fruit smoothie for lunch to her?</p>	<p><i>No, her meals are not meeting the CACFP meal pattern requirements. The written medical statement does not meet the requirement of having a signed medical statement from a licensed physician if the Asperger’s syndrome is diagnosed as a disability or a recognized medical authority if the special dietary need is not the result of a disability. A holistic doctor without MD credentials is not a recognized medical authority.</i></p>
<p>Q4: What if her mother brought in the fruit smoothie for Samantha each day? Could the child care claim her lunches for reimbursement?</p>	<p><i>No, parent supplied substitutes must be justified by a proper medical statement in order for the center to claim meals. The center must supply all components of the meal, and the meal must be in full compliance with the CACFP meal pattern to claim her meals.</i></p>

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Case Study C

Dillon	
<p>Dillon is an enrolled 6 month old infant with developmental disabilities. A special formula is required to be served to him. He has a written statement from his licensed physician that confirms his diagnosis with developmental disabilities and provides instruction that this special formula must be served to him.</p>	
Questions	Answers
<p>Q1: Is the child care obligated to purchase and supply the special formula for Dillon?</p>	<p><i>Yes, the child care must offer to purchase and supply the special formula.</i></p>
<p>Q2: What if the parents get the special formula paid through their insurance and have offered to supply it? Is the child care still obligated to purchase and supply the special formula?</p>	<p><i>No, as long as the parent has volunteered to supply the special formula, then the child care is not obligated to.</i></p>
<p>Q3: Can the child care claim Dillon's meals for reimbursement if he is just served the special formula and the parents supply it?</p>	<p><i>Yes. If Dillon is only served the formula, then the child care can claim his meals. However, if Dillon is served any semi-solids with his meals, the child care must supply at least one component of the meal in order to claim the meal for reimbursement. Once he turns 8 months, he must be offered the required semi-solid foods for meeting the full meal pattern requirement, unless the dr. statement specifies that he be served just the formula with no foods yet.</i></p>

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Case Study D

Lilliana	
<p>Lilliana’s parents are vegan and they want her to adhere to a vegan diet while attending the child care, and have provided a written statement requesting this special dietary need. They provide most of the entrees and also supply almond milk for her to drink with her meals and snacks. The almond milk is not nutritionally equivalent to milk. They do not have a medical statement from a recognized medical authority to justify making these substitutions for Lilliana’s meals. Lilliana is typically present for all meals and snacks.</p>	
Questions	Answers
<p>Q1: As long as the child care supplies part of Lilliana’s meals, like the fruit, vegetable, and grain component, can the child care claim her meals for reimbursement?</p>	<p><i>No, the child care must supply all components for her meals in order to claim them for reimbursement if the parent provided substitutes are not supported by a medical statement. Because the almond milk is not nutritionally equivalent to regular cow’s milk, serving it as a substitute would also have to be justified by a medical statement.</i></p>
<p>Q2: What if the parents provided a non-dairy milk substitute that is nutritionally equivalent to milk, like 8th Continent Original Soy milk? Could the child care claim Lilliana’s meals for reimbursement?</p>	<p><i>No, because they typically provide the entrees of her meals too. But, yes, if the child care supplies her entrees and all other components of her meals and snacks.</i></p>
<p>Q3: What about snacks? Can the child care claim her snacks as long as it supplies both required components of her snacks?</p>	<p><i>Yes, the child care can claim her snacks as long as it supplies two creditable items from two different components. If the almond milk is one of the two items served to her for snack, then the child care cannot claim her snack for reimbursement. The almond milk could be served in addition to the fully compliant snack to claim it for reimbursement.</i></p>