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**Letter of Medical Necessity, Gelmix Infant Thickener**

Patient’s Name

DOB

Month, Day, Year

To Whom It May Concern:

This patient shows *oral (R13.11) oropharyngeal (R13.12) pharyngeal (R13.13) pharyngoesophageal* *(R13.14) phase dysphagia* evidenced by:

□ Clinical signs and symptoms while eating or drinking (coughing, choking, apnea, bradycardia, chest congestion, cyanosis)

□ Modified barium swallow study (MBS)/Videofluoroscopic swallow study (VFSS)

□ Fiberoptic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing (FEES)

□ Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dysphagia is a swallowing disorder that can lead to tracheal aspiration. Dysphagia can contribute to dehydration, costly hospital admissions, medical procedures and treatments, and can promote the use of enteral tube feedings.

Thickened feeds/liquids can facilitate safe swallowing and help to avoid the aforementioned problems. Therefore, thickening liquids is a medical necessity for this patient. Gelmix Infant Thickener is the only hypoallergenic, USDA organic and Kosher certified powder thickener for breast milk and infant formula (HCPCS Code B4100) that can significantly reduce episodes of aspiration by facilitating safer swallowing.

Gelmix is made from simple hypoallergenic ingredients including organic tapioca maltodextrin, organic carob bean gum and calcium carbonate, all with a demonstrated history of safe use with infants. Gelmix maintains thickening potential and nutritional balance in breast milk when compared to rice cereals, starch-based thickeners, and xanthan gum-based thickeners. Starch-based and xanthan-gum based thickeners are not approved for use with infants.

*[If applicable, describe successful trial with Gelmix]*

**We recommend that this patient’s liquids are thickened with Gelmix to:**

□ Slightly thick/thin nectar using 2 scoops (1 teaspoon) Gelmix per 4-6 ounces

□ Mildly thick/nectar using 2 scoops (1 teaspoon) Gelmix per 3-4 ounces

The Gelmix 125g jar offers 52 servings. This patient requires \_\_\_\_\_\_ ounces of liquid daily and will require \_\_\_\_\_\_\_containers of Gelmix per week.

Thank you for approving Gelmix for this patient.

Sincerely,

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Provider Physician