



## Short Bowel Syndrome

(ICD-9 #579.3 Other and unspecified post-surgical non-absorption)

Massive Bowel Resection within three months leaving 5 feet of small bowel beyond ligament of Treitz:

- Copies of operative report and/or
- Hospital discharge summary and/or
- X-ray reports and/or
- Physician letter
- Intake and Output records
- In letter, give length of remaining bowel, attempts at oral or enteral, *if tried* (the requirements under surgery do **not** indicate that a tube trial is necessary), signs of dehydration and electrolyte imbalance, albumin <3.4, weight loss (10%), “patient is not able to maintain weight, hydration, and strength on only oral intake or tube enteral nutrition.”

\*Note: There is a difference in requirements if surgery is done within three months of starting home TPN.

Short bowel syndrome severe enough that has net gastrointestinal fluid and electrolyte malabsorption. On an oral intake of 2.5 – 3 liters/day, the enteral losses exceed 50% of the oral/enteral intake and urine output is 1 liter.

- Copies of operative report and/or
- Hospital discharge summary and/or/x-ray reports and/or
- Physician letter
- Intake and output records to document above
- In letter, give length of remaining bowel, attempts at oral, signs of dehydration and electrolyte imbalance, albumin <3.4, weight loss (10%), “patient is not able to maintain weight, hydration, and strength on only oral intake or tube enteral nutrition.”

Note: If you can prove the above, requirements do not indicate that a tube trial is necessary.

Short bowel syndrome after three months, and that is not as severe as above:

- Tube trial is necessary  
PLUS
- Copies of operative report and/or
- Hospital discharge summary and/or
- X-ray reports and/or
- Physician letter



## Short Bowel Syndrome (continued)

- (In letter, give length of remaining bowel, attempts at oral, signs of dehydration and electrolyte imbalance, medications use to control diarrhea, albumin <3.4, weight loss (10%), documentation of tube trial (see definition of tube trial), and Intake and output summary, “patient is not able to maintain weight, hydration, and strength on only oral intake or tube enteral nutrition.”)
- Intake and output records
- Labs showing electrolyte Imbalance
- List of medications used to control diarrhea.