

Job Aid

Breastfeeding Special Situations

Identify participant categories, meet documentation requirements, and assign appropriate food packages in special breastfeeding special situations involving applicants and participants. Contact your WIC Coordinator for help when you are unsure.

Situation: The birth parent and infant are living apart

A birth parent may live apart from an infant in situations like adoption, foster care, or surrogacy.

A birth parent who is providing their human milk for the infant, even though separated from the infant, may qualify for WIC as a breastfeeding participant if these criteria are met:

- The birth parent meets the WIC definition of breastfeeding.
- The infant is enrolled in WIC.
- The infant's adopted or foster parent (also called "non-birth parent") is not enrolled in WIC as the breastfeeding participant for the infant.
- The birth parent meets the WIC income, residency and nutrition risk requirements.

The birth parent's status as a breastfeeding participant ends when they stop feeding the infant their human milk at least one time per day, or at the infant's first birthday, whichever comes first.

See [Policy 710—Breastfeeding: Definition, Promotion and Support Standards](#) for more information on breastfeeding definitions.

A birth parent who is not breastfeeding may qualify for WIC as a non-breastfeeding postpartum participant if they meet the eligibility requirements of income, residency, and nutrition risk.

Step 1. Document the situation in the WIC Notes of each participant

Make notes in the Oregon WIC MIS records of the birth parent and the infant to explain that they are living apart. Include the WIC ID numbers for each participant to log their connection.

Step 2. Assign appropriate food packages to birth parent and infant

Assign appropriate food package to the birth parent based on how much human milk they are providing to the infant. Assign the WN food package if the parent is not breastfeeding.

Assign the appropriate food package to the infant based on the amount of formula they are receiving from WIC.

See [Policy 769 – Assigning WIC Food Packages](#) for more information on food package assignment.

Situation: Birth parent and non-birth parent are both breastfeeding the infant and living apart

A birth parent may live apart from an infant in situations like adoption, foster care, or surrogacy. When this happens, an infant may be receiving human milk from the birth parent and non-birth parent at the same time.

Only one parent can be certified on WIC as a breastfeeding participant.

- The birth parent may apply as a non-breastfeeding postpartum participant if they meet the WIC eligibility requirements of income, residency, and nutritional risk.
- The non-birth parent is certified as a breastfeeding participant. They must meet the WIC definition of breastfeeding and the WIC eligibility requirements of income, residency, and nutritional risk.

When both the birth parent and non-birth parent are certified on WIC, the infant may be claimed in only one parent's household for determining family size and income eligibility. The infant is not required to live with the non-birth breastfeeding parent to be eligible for WIC.

The lengths of certifications for the birth and non-birth parent depends on the infant's age.

- The birth parent's status as a postpartum participant ends at six months postpartum.
- The non-birth parent's status as a breastfeeding participant ends at the infant's first birthday or when they stop feeding the infant their human milk at least one time per day, whichever comes first.

Step 1. Document the situation in the WIC Notes of each participant

Make notes in the Oregon WIC MIS records of the birth parent, the non-birth parent, and the infant. Explain that they are living apart and both are providing human milk to the infant. Include the WIC ID numbers for each participant to log their connection.

Step 2. Assign appropriate food packages to birth parent, non-birth parent, and infant

Assign the WN food package to the birth parent, even if they are breastfeeding the infant, because only one parent can be tied to the infant.

Assign the appropriate food package to the non-birth parent and infant based on the amount of formula the infant is receiving from WIC.

See [Policy 769 – Assigning WIC Food Packages](#) for more information on food package assignment.

Step 3. Issue a breast pump to the non-birth parent if needed

A breast pump can be issued to the non-birth breastfeeding parent to help them increase milk production. A pump cannot be issued until after the baby is born and enrolled in WIC.

See [Policy 712: Breastfeeding: Breast Pump Ordering, Distribution, and Tracking Guidelines](#) for more information on breast pumps.

Situation: Birth parent and non-birth parent are both breastfeeding the infant and live in the same household

A birth parent and non-birth parent can live in the same household and be breastfeeding the infant at the same time. This situation can happen when infant's biological and non-biological parent are both providing human milk.

Only one parent in the household may be certified as a breastfeeding participant.

- The birth parent gave birth to the infant, so they are categorized as a non-breastfeeding postpartum participant, even if they are breastfeeding.
- The non-birth parent is categorized as the breastfeeding participant. They cannot be categorized as the postpartum participant because they were never pregnant.

The non-birth parent must meet the WIC definition of breastfeeding and the eligibility requirements of income, residency, and nutritional risk.

The lengths of certifications for the birth and non-birth parent depends on the infant's age.

- The birth parent's status as a postpartum participant ends at six months postpartum.
- The non-birth parent's status as a breastfeeding participant ends at the infant's first birthday or when they stop feeding the infant their human milk at least one time per day, whichever comes first.

Step 1. Make special enrollment changes for the birth parent, non-birth parent, and infant

Enroll the birth parent in a separate family even though they live in the same household as the non-birth parent. Enroll the birth parent as the non-breastfeeding participant, even if they are providing their human milk.

Enroll the non-birth parent as the breastfeeding participant. Make changes when enrolling the non-birth parent:

- In the Medical Data Screen, enter **999** for “Total Weight Gain, Pregnancy Just Completed”
- In the Health History Questionnaire, enter **one** for the question “For the pregnancy just completed, how many babies were delivered?” even though they did not give birth.
- Document the Actual Date Delivered (ADD) as the infant’s date of birth (DOB).
- In Enrollment/Intake notes, document that this parent is a non-birth, breastfeeding parent.
- Document the same household size and income as the birth parent because they live in the same household.

Enroll the infant in the same family as the non-birth parent. Document the ADD as the infant’s DOB.

Step 2. Document the situation in the WIC Notes of each participant

Make notes in the Oregon WIC MIS records of the birth parent, the non-birth parent, and the infant. Include the WIC ID numbers for each participant to log their connection.

Step 3. Assign appropriate food packages to birth parent, non-birth parent, and infant

Assign the WN food package to the birth parent, even though they are providing human milk.

Assign the appropriate food packages to the non-birth parent and the infant based on how much formula the infant is receiving.

See [Policy 769 – Assigning WIC Food Packages](#) for more information on food package assignment.

Step 4. Issue a breast pump to the non-birth parent if needed

A breast pump can be issued to the non-birth breastfeeding parent to help increase milk production. A pump cannot be issued until after the baby is born and enrolled in WIC.

See [Policy 712: Breastfeeding: Breast Pump Ordering, Distribution, and Tracking Guidelines](#) for more information on breast pumps.

See Oregon WIC policies for more information

See these policies for more detailed information about WIC eligibility, participant category, and food package assignment in breastfeeding special situations:

[710: Breastfeeding: Definition, Promotion and Support Standards](#)

[712: Breastfeeding: Breast Pump Ordering, Distribution, and Tracking Guidelines](#)

[713: Breastfeeding: Use of Supplemental Formula](#)

[730: Bid Formula: Use and Description](#)

[769: Assigning WIC Food Packages](#)