



ISSUE DATE: 1/12/2024
TO: WIC Coordinators
FROM: Ellen Hill
OHA - Oregon WIC Program
SUBJECT: WIC Policy Update 2024-01

MAJOR REVISIONS: *Policies with content changes that impact local agency functions. Please review all policies with major revisions.*

Policy 626 - Hemoglobin and Hematocrit Screening in WIC

- Switches bloodwork to “blood test”.
- **1.0 Changes the number of retests in a certification period.** Once a participant is determined to have a low hemoglobin/hematocrit, WIC will provide one retest in the certification period, usually scheduled in 2-3 months. If the hemoglobin/hematocrit hasn't returned to the normal at the retest, FNS feels the condition then needs to be treated as a medical condition vs. solely a nutrition condition and further follow-up and tests are the responsibility of the health care provider.
- **1.5 Removes the required blood test for breastfeeding adults 6-12 months.** Only one test is required in the postpartum period, and this is generally performed after the termination of the pregnancy.
- **3.0 Clarifies that whenever a blood test value is more than one point below normal, the confirming second test taken during this same appointment should be performed using a different finger and with a new lancet.**
- **3.0 Clarifies when a retest is taken,** how to determine which of the 2 values to document as the blood test result and what additional information is needed in notes section.
- **5.0 Reworded to clarify local agency actions to take when a hemoglobin level is in the high-risk range.**
- **18.0 When non-invasive bloodwork equipment is used,** clarifies the information an agency needs to address in local policy/procedure.
- **Appendix A: Standing Orders** – in process of being resigned by State Medical Officer. Updated that if referral data below normal, provide same follow-up as do for medium and high-risk hemoglobin levels. (once signed it will be posted - coming soon)

Policy 769 - Assigning WIC Food Packages

- **Added to Definitions, a gender-neutral USDA-FNS definition of breastfeeding:** “Breastfeeding means the practice of feeding a parent’s breastmilk to their infant(s) on the average of at least once a day.” Referring to this definition can help clarify when a family can get a fully breastfeeding food package when the infant is not receiving formula from WIC.
- **Definition of some breastfeeding participant** corrected to start at one month postpartum.
- **Added medical documentation is required to provide the maximum infant formula over 6 months in lieu of infant foods** (Policy 765 cross reference). Added in 8.0 Maximum infant formula over 6 months and to Appendix A, Table Infants 6 through 11 months, footnote (d).



ISSUE DATE: 1/12/2024
TO: WIC Coordinators
FROM: Ellen Hill
OHA - Oregon WIC Program
SUBJECT: **WIC Policy Update 2024-01**

- **8.0 Food packages for infants in month of first birthday:** reworded section based on local agency input to make it clearer that this pertains to all infants turning child participants and options to best meet the needs of the child.
- **13.0 Issuing additional foods** – examples updated to remove category abbreviations, as those used in OTIS will be different from TWIST.

Policy 1100 - Farm Direct Nutrition Program: Local Program Responsibilities

- Added inventory process and form for **local agency's initial receipt of Farm Direct Nutrition Program vouchers** from the State.
- Clarified that **two staff must conduct the physical inventory of Farm Direct vouchers upon initial receipt** from the State and mid-season.
- Replaced “check” with “voucher.”
- Replaced “FDNP” with “Farm Direct Nutrition Program” or “Farm Direct.”

MINOR REVISIONS: *Minor edits, grammatical updates, clarifications, and/or formatting changes have occurred in these policies*

Policy 316 – Quarterly Breakout of Staff Time

- Allows time to be recorded in 15-minute increments instead of only 30-minute increments.

Policy 614 - Income Eligibility – Current Income Guidelines

- Updated to reflect the current income guidelines.

Policy 627 - Procedures for Ordering HemoCue Supplies

- Minor grammatical edits. No other changes.

Policy 770 – Authorized Foods

- Appendix A, soy beverage section, Westsoy Organic Plus has been replaced with the new name of the product, “West Life Organic Soymilk with Calcium & Vitamin D”.

WIC policies can be viewed online at:

oregon.gov/OHA/PH/HEALTHYPEOPLEFAMILIES/WIC/Pages/wicpolicy.aspx

Call the state WIC office at 971-673-0040 if you have questions about this release.