

Memo

To: Health Care Providers

From: Michigan WIC Division
Bureau of Family, Maternal and Child Health
Michigan Department of Community Health

Date: July 15, 2009

RE: New Medical Documentation Requirements and Food Packages for WIC

Dear Health Care Provider:

Beginning August 1, 2009, due to new WIC Federal requirements, a **physician's prescription for special formula will no longer be accepted for WIC clients**. Instead, new Medical Documentation forms (attached forms DCH-1325, DCH-1326 and DCH-1327) will be required for infants to receive special WIC formula; for women and children 1 year and older to receive formula; and for issuance of WIC foods for women and children who receive formula.

Instructions and the new forms can be downloaded from the Michigan WIC Program website at www.michigan.gov/WIC. Click on the "New WIC Foods" link, then scroll down to Medical Providers.

Please note: common WIC Formulas which **do not** require Medical Documentation for **infants less than 12 months of age include:**

Enfamil LIPIL with Iron

Prosobee LIPIL with Iron

Gentlease LIPIL

Enfamil AR LPIL

The following situations **require completion and signature of a medical provider** on the WIC Medical Documentation form:

1. Infants with a qualifying condition who need a WIC formula other than the common formulas specified above. Qualifying conditions are listed on the attached *Instructions for Michigan WIC Medical Documentation*.
2. Women and children 1 year and older with a qualifying condition who require a WIC authorized formula.
3. Women and children 2 through 4 years old who receive WIC formula and need to have whole milk substituted for lower fat milks (2% or less) due to a qualifying medical condition.
4. Women and children one year and older who require cheese substitution for milk in an amount greater than 1 pound of cheese per month. Exclusively breastfeeding women receive 3 pounds of cheese per month; substitutions of cheese for milk in greater amounts requires medical documentation.

Note: Women and children 1 year and older with a qualifying condition who require a WIC formula, may also receive up to the maximum amount of WIC authorized foods if medically documented.

Please contact the Michigan Department of Community Health, WIC Division staff or your local WIC program staff, if you have any questions about the changes in WIC foods and Medical Documentation.

Overview of New Food Package Changes

The new WIC food packages reflect current nutrition knowledge and its application. They provide less saturated fat, cholesterol, total fat, and sodium than the current WIC food packages and contain additional choices to appeal to a more diverse WIC population.

Mothers and their children will be able to purchase WIC foods in quantities that support breastfeeding, increase fiber, and lower fat leading to improved health outcomes.

New foods added to the WIC program:

- Beginning at 6 months, infant fruits and vegetables. Breastfed babies also receive infant meat.
- Fresh fruits and vegetables for women and children.
- Whole grain breads and tortillas for women and children.
- Canned beans such as kidney beans, pinto beans, garbanzo beans, and blackeye peas.

Improvements include:

- more whole grain breakfast cereals
- reduced fat milk for children 2 years and older and women
- reduced amounts of milk, juice, eggs and cheese
- elimination of infant juice
- breastfeeding infants will not routinely receive any formula for the 1st month of life

New food packages for the breastfeeding infant/mother dyad provide the greatest amounts of foods to promote and support breastfeeding. Exclusively breastfed infants receive baby food meats at 6 months (other infants receive none) and twice the amount of baby food fruits and vegetables as other infants. Exclusively breastfeeding women receive the most supplemental foods of any food package.

If you have additional questions or need more information regarding Medical Documentation or the new food packages requirements, please visit our website at www.michigan.gov/wic. If you have specific questions or would like to speak to someone, please contact your local WIC agency or the WIC Division at 1-800-942-1636, option 1 then 2.

To request additional information, email michiganwic@michigan.gov or call your local WIC agency.

INSTRUCTIONS AND FORMS ON WIC WEBSITE—go to www.michigan.gov/wic, click on “New WIC Foods” and scroll down to Medical Providers:

DCH-1325 Instructions for Michigan WIC Medical Documentation

DCH-1326 Medical Documentation for WIC Formula and Authorized WIC Foods-

Infants and Children (through 4 years of age)

DCH-1327 Medical Documentation for WIC Formula and Authorized WIC Foods-

Pregnant, Breastfeeding and Non-Lactating Postpartum Women