



Fresh Fruits & Vegetables

In 2008 changes were put into place by the U.S.D.A. by allocating a certain dollar amount to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables with each food benefit package.

This is referred to as cash value benefit or CVB.

The process of handling the purchase of these items is different than normal WIC items for vendors with stand alone POS devices.

At the register:

- The cashier will key enter the generic **PLU #4469** in the WIC POS for ANY WIC approved fresh fruit and vegetable. The amount requested on the POS will be the price of the item or items in dollars and cents.
- Should the cost of the fresh fruits and vegetables entered into the POS exceed the dollar amount of benefits available to the client at that time, the client's remaining balance will display on the screen "Not Enough Benefits (\$X.XX) Left."
- In these instances, the cashier must then settle the excess amount with the client, either by returning products or **selecting alternate tender**
- This alternate tender can be whatever the vendor accepts (i.e. cash, check, Food Stamp Bridge Card, credit or debit card) and the client decides to use. **This is called split tender.**
- If the client is willing to tender the difference in cost, the available balance will be entered in the WIC POS terminal for payment by the WIC Program.

- **ALWAYS** use the **4469 PLU** code to ring up the dollar amount spent for fresh fruits and fresh vegetables, regardless of type of packaging. **NEVER** scan a UPC, even if there is one on the package.
- The **4469 PLU** code must be used for fresh fruits and vegetables **ONLY**. To use it for anything else is a violation of your WIC Contract.

FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES – INFORMATION SHEET

Authorized Products

Any variety of fresh whole or cut fruit or vegetable without added sweetener or fat, except the following:

- No party trays with dip, dressing or other added food items
- No fruit baskets
- No fruit & nut mixtures,
- No fruit or vegetables from salad bars,
- No herbs, spices, edible blossoms or flowers (broccoli, cauliflower, artichoke are allowed),
- No ornamental or decorative fruits such as chili peppers or garlic on a string, gourds or painted pumpkins.

Processing a WIC EBT Transaction

In the WIC EBT process, the sale of fresh fruits and vegetables for WIC clients will be based on the dollar amount of fresh fruits and vegetables being sold (known as Cash Value Benefits). WIC eligible clients will be issued a dollar amount each month on their WIC Bridge Card to be used only for purchasing authorized fresh fruits and vegetables. The procedures you will use to sell fresh fruits and vegetables using your existing EBT POS device will be sent to you by ACS in mid-July.

Minimum Stock Requirements

Per the attached Minimum Stock Requirements sheet, you will be required to carry at least \$25.00 retail OR 10 pounds of authorized fresh fruits and vegetables at all times. You may select which requirement you will meet. If you only choose to meet the requirement of 10 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, you must have a weight scale available in your store. Estimating the weight of your fresh fruits and vegetables is not acceptable.

If you do not have a weight scale available in your store, you must carry at least \$25.00 worth (retail value) of fresh fruits and vegetables. You may want to consider pricing your items so that it is easy for WIC clients to determine the dollar value of their purchase. Please see the new Minimum Stock Requirements sheet regarding details for which items will be authorized.

USDA recently notified all states that they must now allow white potatoes to be eligible for purchase with the WIC cash value benefit. The Michigan WIC Program implemented this required change effective May 1, 2015. White potatoes include varieties like Idaho, russet, Yukon gold, yellow, red and fingerling.

White potatoes WILL NOT count toward the minimum inventory requirement.

Exchanges & Refunds

The current policy states that the refunding of any food items purchased using WIC benefits is strictly prohibited. This policy will also apply to fresh fruits and vegetables. Exchanges will only be allowed if the original purchase included expired or spoiled fruits or vegetables. During the exchange, WIC clients should obtain the same items as originally intended. However, if that specific item is not available, they may select another WIC approved fresh fruit or vegetable in exchange for the spoiled/expired items.

Also, there should be no cash or EBT involved with an exchange. The dollar amount spent during the original transaction should be the identical dollar amount obtained by the WIC client in the exchange. As is currently the case, the issuance of credit or rain checks is prohibited. The exchange should occur as if the original transaction was successful and no exchange was needed.