



State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals
Center for Preventive Health

July 20, 2009

Dear Health Care Provider

The WIC food packages provide supplemental foods designed to address the nutritional needs of low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, non-breastfeeding postpartum women, infants and children up to five years of age who are at nutritional risk and meet income eligibility requirements. WIC supplemental food packages and nutrition education are the chief means by which WIC affects the health of participants by working to improve the quality of their nutritional intake as well as their overall eating habits.

On December 6, 2007, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued an interim rule (7 CFR part 246) revising the WIC food packages. The interim rule is mandated by the USDA to be implemented by WIC Programs nationwide by October 1, 2009. Given this mandate, the Louisiana WIC Program will be in compliance with the regulations as the food packages and processes associated with them will be in effect on October 1, 2009. This interim rule revises the governing WIC regulations to:

- Align the WIC food packages with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) and current infant feeding practices of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Better promote and support the establishment of successful long-term breastfeeding
- Provide WIC participants with a wider variety of food, and WIC State agencies with greater flexibility in prescribing food packages to accommodate cultural food preferences

A major change was for Food Package III participants that now require qualifying medical conditions for WIC Special Medical Formulas and approved WIC foods. Participants receiving food package III must be medically fragile. According to the revised WIC federal regulation, in order for a participant to receive special formula a health care professional licensed to write medical prescriptions must provide:

- ✓ A medical determination of a qualifying condition (**see attached table**)
- ✓ Name of the prescribed WIC formula
- ✓ Quantity needed per day of prescribed WIC formula
- ✓ Length of time the WIC formula is required by the participant
- ✓ Indication of supplemental food restrictions or contraindications
- ✓ Signature of health care professional, date and contact information

A medical determination of a qualifying condition should include the ICD -9 code(s).

The attached table illustrates qualifying and non-qualifying medical conditions for food package III. The qualifying medical conditions requirement for WIC Special Medical Formulas and approved WIC foods (Food Package III) are effective October 2009

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The revised Louisiana WIC 48 - "Medical Documentation Form" can be used to provide the above required information. The WIC 48 is available by request from your local WIC Clinic in packets of 100 tear-off sheets.

The Louisiana WIC Approved Formulary, a list of all available formulas can be located at <http://www.wic.dhh.louisiana.gov> along with many other helpful WIC related documents.

Thanking you in advance for your attention to the upcoming changes associated with the new WIC regulations.

Sincerely,

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WIC Special Formula Manager