

Texas WIC Health and Human Services Commission

Effective August 1, 2017

Policy No. CS:34.0 (T)

Certification of Non-Birth Mothers

Purpose

To ensure non-birth women and surrogate mothers who breastfeed or provide expressed breastmilk to WIC infants are screened and certified for participation in the WIC program. Human milk, even if not from the birth mother, is recognized as the optimal source of nutrition for young infants.

Authority

7 CFR Part 246.7; Final WIC Policy Memorandum: #96-1

Policy

Non-birth women and surrogate mothers must meet the eligibility requirements of residency, income, and nutritional risk.

Definitions

Surrogate mother - a woman who becomes pregnant and carries a fetus through delivery for another individual

Birth mother - biological and/or surrogate mother

Non-birth mother – a woman who did not give birth to an infant such as a partner, adoptive mother, foster mother, wet nurse or family member

Wet nurse – a woman who breastfeeds or provides breastmilk to a non-birth infant

Procedures

- I. A non-birth woman who breastfeeds or provides expressed breastmilk to a WIC infant is eligible to be enrolled as a breastfeeding woman.
 - A. Examples of a non-birth woman include a partner, an adoptive mother, a foster mother, a wet nurse, and a family member.

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- B. The non-birth woman must have induced lactation and be breastfeeding or providing expressed breastmilk to the infant prior to being enrolled in WIC.
 - C. When both the non-birth and birth mothers are breastfeeding or providing breastmilk to the same infant, the birth mother shall be enrolled as post-partum.
- II. Multiple women breastfeeding or providing expressed breastmilk
- A. If the birth mother and one or more non-birth women are breastfeeding or providing expressed breastmilk to a single WIC infant, only one can be enrolled as breastfeeding.
 - B. If the birth mother and one or more non-birth women are breastfeeding or providing expressed breastmilk to **multiple** WIC infants (e.g., twins, triplets, etc.), one breastfeeding mother or woman **per infant** may be enrolled as breastfeeding.
 - 1. Only the birth mother is eligible to be enrolled as post-partum.
 - 2. The mothers must be enrolled in separate households since only one woman participant can be on each Texas WIC card.
- III. If two or more women applicants live in the same household,
- A. they must each be certified separately so each can receive their own Texas WIC card. Use the same household income for each.
 - B. the infant shall be linked to the breastfeeding mom in the MIS.
- IV. A surrogate or other birth mother who does not live in the same household as the infant shall not be tied to infant in the MIS. If the adoptive mother/infant enrolls in WIC, the infant will be tied to the adoptive mother in the MIS.