

<p style="text-align: center;">Texas WIC Health and Human Services Commission</p>

Effective January 1, 2011

Procedure FD: 10.0

Issuing Food Packages for the Mother/Infant Dyad

Purpose

To establish procedures for issuing food packages to the Mother/Infant dyad.

Authority

State Policy

Policy

Mother and infant packages shall be prescribed according to the amount the mother is breastfeeding or the amount of formula provided. During the infant's birth month, the actual calendar month in which the baby is born, a woman who is partially breastfeeding shall not receive a "Mostly" Breastfeeding food package.

Procedure

I. When issuing mother/infant food packages, local agency (LA) staff shall explain the differences in food package benefits and the cash value among each of the eligible food packages. A woman may indicate her preference for and be allowed to change to a food package that best suits her needs. Refer to FD: 12.0 for food package descriptions and procedures for exchanging food packages.

II. Mother/Infant Dyad During the Birth Month

The infant's "birth month" is defined as the calendar month in which the infant is born. During the infant's birth month the mother has two options, breastfeeding or non-breastfeeding postpartum.

III. Breastfeeding

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- A. Exclusive - If the mother is exclusively breastfeeding, she shall be encouraged to choose the "Exclusively" Breastfeeding food package. The infant shall be issued food package 000 (code 000 is for participation, no formula).
 - B. Mostly- Not an option for birth month. After the birth month, this food package provides a partial formula package.
 - C. Some - If the mother is breastfeeding at least once a day and requests any amount of formula in the birth month, issue this food package.
 - 1. The infant shall receive a formula package that is customized to reflect the quantity of formula needed as determined by the Certifying Authority (CA) or the WIC Certification Specialist (WCS) after discussing with the mother. Local agency staff shall not automatically issue the maximum amount of formula allowed.
 - 2. Every effort shall be made to encourage and support breastfeeding. A breastfeeding woman who chooses the "Some" Breastfeeding food package in the birth month should be provided extra breastfeeding support and encouraged to choose the "Exclusively" or "Mostly" Breastfeeding Food Package for advanced issuance months.
 - a. A breastfed infant who receives less than the maximum amount of formula at initial issuance during the birth month may return to receive up to the maximum amount of formula within that month. For example, if 5 cans of powder formula are issued on the card, the breastfeeding woman can return within the month to receive the maximum amount allowed that month for that particular formula.
 - b. When a breastfeeding woman is requesting additional formula, staff shall:
 - i. Provide breastfeeding counseling according to Policy BF: 01.0 Procedure C.

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- ii. Inform the woman that if she chooses to continue breastfeeding at least one time a day but prefers to receive a full package of formula for her infant, she will not be eligible to receive any food benefits after the infant turns six month of age, but will be eligible to receive breastfeeding support.
- iii. If the woman still desires an increase in formula, staff shall change the woman's food package in the Texas WIC Information Network (WIN) system before changing the infant's food package and Infant Formula Plan.
- iv. LA staff shall issue up to the maximum amount of formula allowed via the Formula Exchange Module. Due to WIN system formula proration, issuing additional formula is not always possible.

III. Non-breastfeeding Postpartum

- A. If a mother requests any amount of formula and is not breastfeeding, she shall receive the Postpartum food package for the birth month (postpartum and "some" breastfeeding women receive the same food package which is referred to as the "Formula Package" in participant education materials).
- B. The infant shall receive a formula package that is customized to reflect the quantity of formula needed as determined by the Certifying Authority (CA) or the WIC Certification Specialist (WCS) after discussing with the mother. Local agency staff shall not automatically issue the maximum amount of formula allowed.

IV. Mother/Infant Dyad After the Birth Month

Any month following the infant's birth month, the mother has three options:

- A. Exclusively Breastfeeding food package
- B. Mostly Breastfeeding package or
- C. Postpartum/Some Breastfeeding food package

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Example of after the birth month: Infant date of birth: 10/27/XX
Certification date: 11/01/XX

The certification date is not during the birth month.

IV. Surrogate Mother or Mother Whose Infant is Adopted

- A. If a surrogate mother or a mother whose infant is adopted by another family is income-eligible and expresses her breastmilk and provides the milk to the surrogate or adoptive family, she shall be certified as a breastfeeding woman and issued an "Exclusively" Breastfeeding food package for as long as she continues to provide milk to the infant. Her infant will not receive a food package unless the surrogate or adoptive family qualifies and enrolls the infant in WIC separately. If the WIC-enrolled surrogate or adoptive family requests formula for the infant, the mother's food package must be adjusted accordingly.
- B. If a surrogate mother or a mother whose infant was adopted by another family is income-eligible and expresses her breastmilk and provides it to a milk bank, the mother should be encouraged to continue to provide milk to the milk bank however the mother/baby dyad is no longer intact. She shall be certified as a postpartum woman if it has been less than 6 months since delivery. This mother would not be eligible for a breast pump through WIC.