

Texas WIC Health and Human Services Commission

Effective: February 1, 2018

Policy No. FD: 10.0 (T)

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.

Procedures

- I. When issuing mother/infant food packages, local agency (LA) staff shall explain the differences in food package benefits 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 FD: 12.1 for procedures for exchanging food packages.

- II. Breastfeeding
 - A. Fully Breastfeeding – for breastfeeding woman whose infants do not receive any infant formula from WIC (assumed to be fully breastfeeding their infants)
 - B. Partially- For partially breastfeeding women whose infants receive formula from WIC in amounts that do not exceed the maximum allowance for the partial food packages. breastfeeding mothers.
 1. This package is available in the birth month, but should not be the standard issuance if a woman is mostly breastfeeding. She should be encouraged to take the Fully Breastfeeding package.
 2. Infant formula should not be routinely issued during the birth month to breastfed infants.

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3. During the birth month, only one can of formula shall be issued to breastfed infants.
4. After the birth month, the infant will receive approximately a half package of formula.
- C. Some Breastfeeding – for women up to six months postpartum whose infants receive more than the maximum amount of formula allowed for partially breastfed infants.
 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. LAs 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 Fully or Partially Breastfeeding Food Package for advanced issuance months.
 3. A breastfed infant who receives less than the maximum amount of formula at initial issuance during the birth month may return to the clinic 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 same month to receive the maximum amount allowed of formula.
 4. When a breastfeeding woman requests additional formula, staff shall
 - a. Provide breastfeeding counseling according to Policy BF: 01.0 Procedure C.
 - b. 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 six months postpartum but will be eligible to receive breastfeeding support.

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- III. Non-breastfeeding Postpartum
 - A. The Postpartum food package is for women up to six months postpartum who are not breastfeeding their infants.
 - B. The infant shall receive the appropriate formula package determined by the Certifying Authority (CA) or the WIC Certification Specialist (WCS).

- 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:
 - 1. She shall be certified as a breastfeeding woman and issued Fully Breastfeeding food package.
 - 2. She will not be linked to the infant in the MIS.
 - 3. Her infant will not receive a food package unless the adoptive family qualifies and enrolls the infant in WIC. The adoptive mom and infant will be the dyad in the MIS.
 - 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. 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.