
POLICY: Certifying Participants after Delivery

Staff must:

1. Have a discussion with the participant prenatally to determine the participant's plans for feeding the infant.
2. Serve Pregnant participants through their eligibility period (due date + 6 weeks, extended to the end of the month).
3. If the participant is doing any breastfeeding, complete a Breastfeeding Review and provide appropriate support and referrals.
4. Assess and determine the appropriate time to subsequently certify as Breastfeeding or Non-breastfeeding postpartum and certify the infant.
5. Provide the appropriate food benefits for the participant's category and feeding method.

PROCEDURE:

Staff:

- A. Assess the Pregnant participant's plans to breastfeed at prenatal appointments.
 - Provide participant-centered breastfeeding support and encouragement.
- B. Assess and determine when to subsequently certify the Pregnant participant as Breastfeeding or Non-breastfeeding postpartum.
 1. Breastfeeding participants – those **without** breastfeeding experience or feel they may need formula in the first 30 days of life:
 - a. Keep the participant in the Pregnant category through, or near the end of the eligibility period before subsequently certifying.
 - b. Certify the infant.
 - 1) The Pregnant participant's adjunctive eligibility applies to the infant when appropriate.
 - 2) Provide food benefits as appropriate.

- Once assigned Fully BF or Partially BF (1 can) and benefits are used, you can't change the feeding status or provide additional formula in the first month of life.
 - If the participant is doing some breastfeeding, provide counseling on how to support continued breastfeeding and buy only the amount of formula needed.
2. Breastfeeding participants – those with positive history of breastfeeding or breastfeeding is well established.
- a. Assess breastfeeding as part of the certification and identify the participant's breastfeeding goals.
 - b. Subsequently certify as Breastfeeding.
 - Once changed to the Breastfeeding category, Pregnant adjunctive eligibility doesn't apply to the infant.
 - c. Certify the infant.
 - Don't provide formula unless 1 can is needed as determined in a Breastfeeding Review.
 - Once assigned Fully BF or Partially BF (1 can) and benefits are used, you can't change the feeding status or provide additional formula in the first month of life.
3. Non-breastfeeding postpartum participants:
- a. Keep the participant in the Pregnant category through, or near the end of the eligibility period.
 - This provides the maximum food benefit to the participant.
 - b. Certify the infant.
 - The Pregnant participant's adjunctive eligibility applies to the infant when appropriate.
 - Provide formula benefits to the infant.

- C. Provide the appropriate food benefits for each participant's category and feeding method.
1. The infant can receive formula while the breastfeeding participant is in the Pregnant category.
 2. Once in the Breastfeeding category the infant and breastfeeding participant's food benefits must align.
 3. Complete a Breastfeeding Review after delivery and when formula is requested for a breastfed infant.
 - See [Volume 1, Chapter 23 – WIC Foods](#) for more information.
 - See [Volume 1, Chapter 15 – Breastfeeding](#) for information about Breastfeeding Reviews.

Washington State WIC Nutrition Program
DOH 960-367 March 2020

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