

## Health Updates

### Policy

**USDA Federal Regulations:** (g) Certification periods. (1) Program benefits will be based upon certifications established in accordance with the following timeframes:

A/an:	Will be certified:
(iii) Breastfeeding woman	Approximately every six months. The State agency may permit its local agencies to certify a breastfeeding woman up to the last day of the month in which her infant turns 1 year old, or until the woman ceases breastfeeding, whichever occurs first.
(iv) Infant	Approximately every six months. The State agency may permit its local agencies to certify an infant under six months of age up to the last day of the month in which the infant turns 1 year old, provided the quality and accessibility of health care services are not diminished.
(v) Child	Approximately every six months ending with the last day of the month in which a child reaches his/her fifth birthday. The State agency may permit its local agencies to certify a child for a period of up to one year, provided the local agency ensures that the child receives the required health and nutrition assessments, as set forth in §246.11(e)(3).

(2) During each six-month certification period, at least two nutrition contacts shall be made available to all adult participants and the parents or caretakers of infant and child participants, and wherever possible, the child participants themselves.

(3) Nutrition education contacts shall be made available at a quarterly rate to parents or caretakers of infant and child participants certified for a period in excess of six months. Nutrition education contacts shall be scheduled on a periodic basis by the local agency, but such contacts do not necessarily need to take place in each quarter of the certification period.

### Authority

7 CFR Part 246.7(g)(1)(iii-v)

7 CFR Part 246.11(e)(2-3)

## Procedures

Scheduling frequency and what should happen at each appointment:

<p>Infants</p>	<p>Schedule all infants for Health Update appointments every three months.</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Each of these appointments includes a brief health assessment and breastfeeding data collection and nutrition education. (At a minimum, the required questions in the data system must be answered, other questions should be reviewed and asked as needed depending on conversation with parent/guardian.)</li> <li>● At least once during the certification period, obtain weight and length measurements.</li> <li>● Between 9-12 months of age, obtain referral bloodwork data or measure hemoglobin or hematocrit level.</li> <li>● Evaluate the current feeding plan, including but not limited to the parent's breastfeeding goals and expectations; discussion regarding the introduction and advancement of solid foods and if formula feeding, preparation, sanitation and special formula issues as applicable.</li> <li>● Complete a new risk determination.</li> <li>● Document completed nutrition education and referrals as usual.</li> <li>● Complete new care plan as appropriate.</li> </ul>
<p>Breastfeeding Woman</p>	<p>Schedule a Health Update appointment for each breastfeeding woman to coincide with her infant's mid-year Health Update appointment (between 5-7 months).</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● At this appointment, complete a brief maternal health assessment, provide breastfeeding support, guidance and referrals specific to her and provide a second nutrition education contact for the mother. At a minimum, the required health care provider question in the data system must be answered, other questions should be reviewed and asked as needed depending on conversation.</li> <li>● Obtain weight (for all mothers) and height (up until age 21).</li> <li>● Measure hemoglobin or hematocrit level if low at certification.</li> <li>● Complete a new risk determination.</li> <li>● Document completed nutrition education and referrals as usual.</li> <li>● Complete new care plan as appropriate.</li> </ul>

	<p>Schedule Nutrition Education appointments approximately three months after certification and approximately every three months after the Health Update appointment until she has been terminated for categorical ineligibility or she is no longer breastfeeding, whichever comes first. (Breastfeeding women must receive exit counseling prior to termination from the program.)</p> <p>Breastfeeding mothers whose infants receive more than half of the WIC formula package after the age of 6 months will no longer receive food benefits but because these women continue to be Active participants, they should continue receiving nutrition services including nutrition counseling, education and referrals. (These appointments should be scheduled around the time she is 9 and 12 months postpartum.) Mark her FB Issuance on the family panel as “No Food Benefits”.</p>
<p>Children</p>	<p>Schedule all children for a Health Update appointment 6 months after the certification appointment.</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Each of these appointments includes anthropometric measurements, blood work as required, a brief update of the health and dietary assessment, immunization screening follow-up as necessary, and nutrition education. (At a minimum, the required questions in the data system must be answered, and other questions should be reviewed and asked as needed depending on the conversation and identified changes since the previous certification.)</li> <li>● Obtain weight and height measurements and assess growth and weight.</li> <li>● If between 15-18 months, (or if otherwise needed) obtain referral blood work data or measure hemoglobin or hematocrit level.</li> <li>● Complete a new risk determination.</li> <li>● Document completed nutrition education and referrals as usual.</li> <li>● Complete new care plan as appropriate.</li> </ul>

## Best Practices

WIC agencies are strongly encouraged to use previously collected bloodwork and anthropometric data from well-child visits obtained within 60 days of the participant's WIC appointment.

A new care plan is required for high-risk participants but CPAs are encouraged to write a new care plan for others as well in order to:

- Expand on the responses recorded in the nutrition interview,
- Document the infant’s or special woman or child’s formula feeding plan, or
- Document other nutrition information not recorded in the record.

