IOWA WIC Friday Facts
Bureau of Nutrition & Health Promotion
1-800-532-1579

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Policy

From the WIC Program Goals Manual - 215.12 Precertification of Priority II Infants

The usual certification procedure should be used for most infants because it offers an opportunity for WIC staff to visually assess the infant's health status and to provide anticipatory guidance about infant feeding. However, precertification of Priority II infants (i.e., certification without current anthropometric data) is allowed by the Iowa WIC Program under specific circumstances. The purpose of precertification is to provide adequate nutrition soon after birth. This policy provides information about how to complete precertifications.

Priority II infants are infants who are considered to be at nutritional risk solely on the basis of their mother's status defined as follows:

- Mother participated in WIC during her pregnancy, or
- Mother did not participate in WIC during her pregnancy but her medical records document that she was at nutritional risk during pregnancy.

Precertification is limited to infants younger than two weeks of age. Breastfed and formula-fed infants may be enrolled using this procedure.

Note: Hospitalized infants cannot be precertified.

Precertification using referral data is an acceptable option for infants:

- Going home from the hospital and hospital staff shares referral data, and
- Whose parent requests services from public health nursing or Early Head Start and the agency shares referral data with the local WIC program.

Precertification in the WIC clinic is an acceptable option for infants when a regular certification appointment is not available.

EBT Update

EBT offline vs Online

Iowa is taking an EBT neutral approach meaning offline or online EBT technology could be chosen. At the end of the Friday Facts is a comparison of some of the differences between the online and offline EBT technologies.

Dates to Remember

2012

- August 21, 2012 – WIC Contractor's Meeting
- August 29, 2012 – Infant and Child Nutrition Core Workshops
- August 30, 2012 at 1:00pm (PST) and September 26, 2012 at 9:00am (PST) – Baby Behavior webinar
- October 26, 2012 – 2012 Iowa WIC Training
- October 30, 2012 – Communication and Rapport Building Core Workshop

Available Formula

Product	Quantity	Expiration Date	Agency	Contact
Enfaport Lipil 8 oz RTU, 30 cal/fl oz	1 case (24 cans) + 4 cans	12/1/2012	Edgerton Women's Health	Jen Clasen 563-359-6635
Pediasure 1.0 Enteral	1 case (24 cans)	7/1/2013	Pott County	Kris Wood 712-238-5886
Bright Beginnings Soy Vanilla flavor	8 oz RTU cans in cases of 6 17 cases (102 cans)	3/2013 and 2/2013	Siouxland District Health Department	Jean Sterner 712-279-6636
EleCare Jr. Unflavored Portagen	1 containers – 14.1 oz 5 containers – 16 oz	8/2013 8/2013	New Opportunities	Sharon McDonald Williams 712-830-1329
Elecare Unflavored	8 containers 14.1 oz powdered	4/1/2014	Edgerton Women's Health	Jen Clasen 563-359-6635
Compleat Pediatric Unflavored	6 cases (24 – 8.45 oz. cans per case)	1 – Sept 2012 1 – Nov 2012 4 – Feb 2013	New Opportunities	Sharon MacDonald Williams 712-830-1329

EBT Technology	
Offline	**Online**
Uses smart cards that maintain benefit information on the card	Uses magnetic stripe cards to access account information on the EBT host system
Transactions occur between the card and the retail system	Transactions occur real-time between the retail system and the EBT host
A "daily" claim file is transmitted to the EBT settlement server for processing payments	The EBT host system determines the settlement amount base on transactions that occurred during a set timeframe

EBT Card Technology	
Offline	**Online**
Contains a microchip with an operating system, software programs and storage	Used widely in the financial industry (credit, debit, SNAP EBT)
Fully programmable – can store, update and process information	Use to access an account, limited information encoded on the magnetic stripe
Capable of handling complex encryption algorithms	

EBT Card Issuance/Replacement	
Offline	**Online**
One card assigned per household	Multiple cards can be assigned to a household
Deactivated cards are added to a hot card list (HCL) distributed to vendors	Card replacement immediately links any remaining benefits in the household account to the replacement card
Cardholders must come to the clinic to receive replacement card	Replacement card can be mailed to the participant or it can be issued immediately in the clinic
48-hour waiting period for replacement card	

Benefit Issuance	
Offline	**Online**
Benefits transmitted to smart card, central database updated through batch process	Benefits are posted to a central database over telecommunications lines
No telecommunications is required to complete	Requires telecommunications from clinic to host system
Requires smart card reader/writer	Requires availability of host system
Requires physical presence of card at issuance and if benefits are changed requires presence of card	Card is not required to be present when changes are made and benefit changes do not require presence of card

EBT - Redemption	
Offline	**Online**
The transaction occurs between the retail system and the chip on the card	The transaction occurs between the retail system and the EBT host system
The retail system does not need to access the EBT host system at the time of the transaction	The retail system must be able to access the EBT host system at the time of the transaction
The retail system sends a batch file of all transactions once a day to the EBT host system to update account balances and determine settlement amounts	Processing on the host system occurs in real-time
	No daily batch file required, settlement based on transaction submitted throughout the processing day

EBT - Settlement	
Offline	**Online**
Claim files are uploaded each day to a central server where they are processed, reconciled, not to exceed (NTE's) applied and the vendor reimbursement is generated	Settlement is calculated as each transaction is processed
Settlement generally occurs within 48-hours for only those transactions that are successfully uploaded	Based on a system end-of-day process, retailer may be reimbursed electronically the next business day for approved transactions prior to daily cut-off
Settlement is usually deposited to each store's bank account	Settlement is deposited to store's bank or intermediary processors may provide retailers with a combined settlement

EBT – Security	
Offline	**Online**
Uses PIN security to access benefits	Uses PIN security, encrypted for transmission and checked at host
Requires presence of card to select or change PIN	PIN can be selected and changed remotely using a telephonic interface
State agency must manage key encryption process for State, clinic and retail equipment	State agency must manage key encryption process for State, clinic and retail equipment