

Attachment 1

Food Package Issuance Protocols

WIC's definition of a breastfeeding woman continues to be the practice of feeding a mother's breast milk to her infant on the average of at least once a day. This definition determines the categorical eligibility of a participant as a breastfeeding woman, and has not changed under the interim rule revising the WIC food packages. Breastfeeding women are eligible for WIC services up to one year postpartum. Breastfeeding assessment and the mother's plans for breastfeeding serve as the basis for determining food package issuance.

The following describes the various food packages available to women who meet the definition of a breastfeeding woman in the WIC Program. All of these women should be reported as breastfeeding, regardless of the food package they are issued.

Food Package VII is issued to:

Fully **breastfeeding women** whose infants do not receive infant formula from WIC. Their infants receive no food package through age 5 months; at 6 months of age their infants receive the fully breastfed infant food package. Women fully breastfeeding *multiple infants from the same pregnancy* receive 1.5 times the supplemental foods provided in Food Package VII.

Partially (mostly) **breastfeeding women** who are breastfeeding *multiple infants from the same pregnancy* and whose infants receive formula from WIC in amounts that *do not exceed* the maximum formula allowances for partially breastfed infants. After the first month postpartum, their infants receive the partially breastfed infant food package appropriate to the age of the infant.

(NOTE: women pregnant with two or more fetuses also receive Food Package VII)

Food Package V is issued to:

Partially (mostly) **breastfeeding women** who are breastfeeding *singleton* infants up to 12 months of age and whose infants receive formula in amounts that *do not exceed* the maximum formula allowances for partially breastfed infants. After the first month postpartum, their infants receive the partially breastfed infant food package appropriate to the age of the infant.

Food Package VI is issued to:

Partially (minimally) **breastfeeding women** who are breastfeeding *singleton infants* or *multiple infants from same pregnancy* and whose infants *less than 6 months of age* receive formula from WIC in amounts that *exceed* the maximum formula allowance for partially breastfed infants. Their infants receive the fully formula fed package

appropriate to the age of the infant, with the amount of formula tailored to the needs of the infant(s).

(NOTE: non-breastfeeding postpartum women also receive Food Package VI)

No Food Package is issued to:

Partially (minimally) **breastfeeding women** who are breastfeeding *singleton infants* or *multiple infants from same pregnancy* and whose infants *greater* than 6 months of age receive formula from WIC in amounts that *exceed* the maximum formula allowance for partially breastfed infants. These women continue to count as breastfeeding women and receive nutrition services. Their infants receive the fully formula fed infant food package appropriate to the age of the infant, with the amount of formula tailored to the needs of the infant.