

POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

7. FOOD SUPPLEMENTS.

7.06 Formula Issuance For Breastfed Infants.

A. POLICY:

PA WIC shall provide supplementation to breastfed infants when clinically indicated due to questionable or inadequate intake, a breastfeeding/medical problem or who have begun receiving supplemental formula prior to their certification appointment.

B. PROCEDURE:

1. All formula issued to breastfeeding participants shall be handled by CPAs who have attended breastfeeding training part 2 and have passed breastfeeding proficiency testing.
2. An infant/mother feeding assessment screening shall be done on all breastfeeding infants. A detailed breastfeeding assessment shall be done on all breastfed infants who need supplementation due to questionable or inadequate intake, a breastfeeding/medical problem or who have begun receiving supplemental formula prior to their certification appointment.
 - a. When receiving a request for formula, the CPA shall first complete an infant/mother feeding assessment screening to determine if the formula is merely desired or nutritionally needed.
 - b. The CPA shall refer to the Formula Issuance Algorithm in Attachment 1 to develop a plan with the mother which is based on the results of the mother/infant feeding assessment screening and the mother's stated needs/goals.
 - c. The CPA shall refer to attachment 2 to determine the amount of expressed milk or formula to be given as a supplement that is based on assessment, infant age and weight.
 - d. If the mother requests more formula than the assessment indicates, review WIC policy which states that formula is issued based on assessed nutritional need. Explain that feeding formula above the nutritional needs of the infant can result in overfeeding, vomiting, stomach and bowel discomfort, infant/child obesity and may decrease her milk supply.
 - e. Refer to attachment 3 for guidance on informing mothers about the risks of

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- formula supplementation as appropriate to the situation.
- f. Refer to attachment 4 for guidance on how to address requests for formula prior to one month of age.
 - g. Refer to Attachment 5 for examples on how to document formula issuance to breastfeeding participants in MIS.
 - h. Refer to Attachment 6 for guidance on how to promote the full and partial breastfeeding food packages.
3. If a mother wants/needs to supplement her infant, the CPA shall encourage her to supplement with her own milk and provide education about the option of milk expression. If needed, an appropriate breastpump shall be issued to the mother so she can express her own milk for any needed supplement. Information about the enhanced food package for fully breastfeeding women and infants shall also be given.
 4. No formula can be issued to breastfed infants less than one month old.
 - a. Mothers who do request formula prior to the infant's first month shall be provided with in-depth breastfeeding support according to the protocols in the WIC Breastfeeding Promotion and Support manual and, as appropriate, referred to a peer counselor, lactation consultant, breastfeeding coordinator or another lactation specialist available at the local agency.
 - b. Mothers who call to say they have stopped breastfeeding in spite of the support given shall be given an appointment within 48 hours to have their status changed to post-partum and to provide formula for their infant.
 5. For infants one month or older, the amount of formula issued shall be based on assessed nutritional need, not participant or health care provider request.
 6. As appropriate, the CPA shall inform the participant of the health consequences that are related with formula introduction, the potential of premature weaning, and the potential of initiating breastfeeding problems.
 6. If formula is issued, the reason and the amount of formula shall be documented in MIS comments.

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7. Supplemental formula generally shall be issued in powdered form. If concentrate or ready-to-feed formula is issued, the reason shall be documented in the MIS.

Attachment(s):

1. Formula issuance algorithm
2. Guidelines for determining amount of formula to issue
3. Health consequences of formula introduction
4. WIC breastfeeding mother with infants <1 month of age: No formula issuance guidance
5. MIS System documentation examples
6. Breastfeeding food package promotion guidance

Reference(s):

1. Policy and Procedure 5.02

Policy & Procedure Status:

1. This P&P supersedes P&P Number 7.06 dated October 1, 2009.