

2.11 Nutritional Risk Criteria

POLICY:

To be certified as eligible for the Program, categorically eligible applicants who meet the Program's eligibility standards specified in Policy 2.04, Residency Requirements, and Policy 2.06, Income Eligibility Requirements must be determined to be at nutrition risk according to the standard criteria established by this policy.

DEFINITIONS:

Nutrition Risk: Nutrition risk means: Detrimental or abnormal nutrition conditions detectable by biochemical or anthropometric measurements; other documented nutritionally related medical conditions; dietary deficiencies that impair or endanger health; or conditions that predispose persons to inadequate nutrition patterns or nutritionally related medical conditions.

PROCEDURE:

A. Determination of Nutrition Risk

The Local Agency Competent Professional Authority (CPA) will determine if a person is at nutrition risk through a medical and/or nutrition assessment. Criteria for nutrition risk assignment are set in STORC (see **Attachments #1, #2, and #3 of this policy**).

Note: This determination may be based on referral data submitted by a CPA not on the staff of the Local Agency.

- < At a minimum, height or length and weight will be measured (see policy 2.12, Anthropometric Measurements); and
 - < a hematological test for anemia such as a hemoglobin or hematocrit test will be performed (see Policy 2.13, Anthropometric Measurements).
1. The CPA will document all applicable (up to 8) Nutrition Risk Criteria for an applicant/participant during each certification to determine nutrition risk eligibility, to record that the applicant is certified or ineligible, for placement on a waiting list (see **Policy 1.09, Waiting List Management**), and for nutrition education and referral.
 - a. Nutrition Risk Criteria will be documented in the **STORC Health Surveillance Screen**.
 - b. Begin with highest priority level possible for the participant category (see **Policy 2.02, Priority System**).
 - c. Among the highest priority level, first select high risk Nutrition Risk Criteria (see **Policy 5.06, Guidelines for Serving High Risk Participants**).

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2. The breastfeeding woman and her infant may be determined to be at nutrition risk based on their own medical risk factors or based on a risk factor of the other.
3. An infant under six (6) months of age may be determined to be at nutrition risk if the infant's mother was a Program participant during pregnancy or if medical records document that the woman was at nutrition risk during pregnancy because of detrimental or abnormal nutrition conditions detectable by biochemical or anthropometric measurements or other documented nutritionally related medical conditions.
4. A participant who has previously been certified eligible for the Program may be considered to be at nutrition risk in next certification period if the CPA determines there is a possibility of regression in nutrition status without the supplemental foods.
 - a. Participants who are eligible for certification because of regression will be certified in the priority level where they were previously certified.
 - b. Regression may be used only once for a subsequent certification.
 - c. The risk code for regression must be the only nutrition risk criteria used.
 - d. The CPA must document in the **STORC Nutrition Care Plan** the reason for use of regression.

B. Required Documentation

1. Criteria that require documentation from a healthcare professional will be on letterhead or prescription pad.
 - a. The documentation will be filed in the participant's chart.
 - b. When it is not feasible to obtain immediate written documentation, documentation in the **STORC Nutrition Care Plan** of a phone contact between the CPA and the healthcare professional, including the diagnosis and any special instructions name/credentials and address/phone number. Written documentation will be obtained prior to the next certification visit.
2. Evaluation of diet using the **Nutrition Practices Interview Guide for Women, Attachment #4, Nutrition Practices Interview Guide for Infants, Attachment # 5 and Nutrition Practices Interview Guide for Children, Attachment # 6** of this policy.

C. Following Eligibility Determination

Once an applicant is found to be eligible to receive Program benefits, the CPA will do the Following:

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1. Offer nutrition education according to the participant's record, dietary history, health history and/or participant's questions and concerns
2. Document the nutrition education contact in the **STORC Nutrition Care Plan** (see **Policy 5.05, Nutrition Education Contacts and Documentation**).
3. Refer the participant, when appropriate (see **Policy 5.05, Nutrition Education Contacts and Documentation**), using the **WIC Program Referral Form (WIC-35)**.
 - b. Record the referral in the **STORC Nutrition Care Plan**.
 - c. For high risk participants, document the referral in the **STORC Nutrition Care Plan**.

Note: The Nutrition Care Plan should be completed on the date of the visit and CPA's first initial, complete surname, and professional title (not "CPA").
4. Prescribe all initial and subsequent appropriate food packages in the **STORC Food Package Prescription Screen**.

REFERENCES:

1. WIC Regulations, 246.2, Definitions
2. WIC Regulations, 246.7, Certification of Participants
3. WIC Regulations, 246.10, Supplemental Foods
4. SFP 05-066, WIC Policy Memorandum 98-9, Revision 8, Nutrition Risk Criteria
5. SFP 07-075, WIC Policy Memorandum 98-9, Revision 9 Nutrition Risk Criteria

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Attachment #1, Woman Nutrition Risk Criteria
2. Attachment #2, Child Nutrition Risk Criteria
3. Attachment #3, Infant Nutrition Risk Criteria
4. Attachment # 4, Nutrition Practices Interview Guide for Women
5. Attachment #5, Nutrition Practices Interview Guide for Infants
6. Attachment # 6, Nutrition Practices Interview Guide for Children