

FALL 2008 EDITION



WIC'r Basket

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources
Bureau for Public Health, Office of Nutrition Services

The Vendor Newsletter of the West Virginia WIC Program

Contract Formulas

During site visits our Monitors noted that some vendors are stocking Similac with Iron as a WIC Approved contract formula. Similac with Iron is **NOT** a WIC approved formula and should **NOT** be substituted for Similac Advance. These formulas are different and should never be substituted. Substitutions are sanctionable offenses that may result in a ten (10) point assessment against the vendor. A ten (10) point sanction requires the vendor to attend mandatory training.

The following is a list of WIC Approved Contract Formulas: Similac Advance, Similac Isomil Advance, Similac Sensitive RS and Similac Lactose-free® (Sensitive). If you have any further questions, please contact the Vendor Management Unit at (304) 558-1115.

Kraft 2% Milk Shredded Cheese

Recently Kraft revised the package of their 2% Milk Shredded Cheese. The package indicates the cheese is made from cow's milk that is not treated with growth hormone rbST. Some vendors have interpreted this to mean it is an organic food and have refused it to WIC customers. Vendors please inform your cashiers that Kraft Shredded Cheese made with 2% Milk is WIC Approved.

Vendor Stamp Issues

Bank returns have increased due to "Missing Vendor Stamp" and "Unreadable Vendor Stamp." Vendors are reminded to clean their vendor stamp on a regular basis and ensure that ink pads are inked with black ink prior to stamping drafts. "Unreadable Vendor Stamp" and "Missing Vendor Stamp" drafts are correctable errors in the draft banking system, but your store could incur bank charges for drafts being returned. Please take the time to ensure that all drafts are stamped properly before depositing. If a draft is returned for "Unreadable Vendor Stamp" or "Missing Vendor Stamp" they may be redeposited as long as the payment agent receives it before 60 days from the first date to spend. If the draft is over the 60 day timeframe from the first date to spend, but does not exceed the 70 day timeframe from the first date to spend, these drafts can be submitted to the Vendor Management Unit for payment.

Vendor Monthly Training

The next monthly vendor training sessions will be held at the Family Enrichment Center in Charleston, WV, on September 25, 2008 and October 21, 2008 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All vendors are encouraged to send store personnel to monthly training sessions. Seating is limited, so please contact the Vendor Management Unit at (304) 558-1115 to schedule.

Tuna

Food Manufacturers have begun distributing tuna in the new 5 ounce can. The WIC Program is asking vendors to honor drafts from WIC participants calling for 6 ounce cans of tuna. New drafts will soon state tuna in 5 or 6 ounce cans.

Similac Advance EarlyShield

Abbott Nutrition has announced a new formula Similac Advance EarlyShield which at this time is **Not** a WIC Approved Formula.

Skippy Peanut Butter

Skippy recently downsized their 18 ounce container of Skippy Peanut Butter to a 16.3 ounce container making it ineligible as a WIC approved peanut butter. Vendors when completing your Vendor Price List (VPL) do not include the price of Skippy Peanut Butter. For more information concerning Skippy Peanut Butter, visit their website at: <http://www.peanutbutter.com/products.asp>.

Pricing WIC Drafts

During compliance visits our investigator has noticed that cashiers are not pricing WIC drafts at the time of sale. Failure to price a WIC draft before asking the participant to sign is a sanctionable offense which could cause your store's vendor agreement to be terminated.

Store Losses May Not Be Necessary

If you have drafts that have been previously rejected from the bank or that you are having problems with, please contact the Vendor Management Unit at (304) 558-1115 to discuss questionable drafts. Sanction points are no longer assessed for unpaid drafts.

Edits

New edits sheets for October, November, and December 2008 are included in this mailing. Our banking agent will start using the new edits on October 1, 2008. Drafts that were properly accepted at or near the end of September should be checked against the current edits and the new edits.



Joe Manchin III, Governor
Martha Yeager Walker, Secretary

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