

FALL 2011 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

Electronic Benefit Transfer System (EBT) Survey

The West Virginia WIC Program recently notified you of plans to start using electronic benefit transfer system (EBT) for WIC redemptions by the fall of 2012 with statewide implementations by early 2013. WIC has contracted with Fidelity Information Services (FIS) and Custom Data Processing (CDP) to begin developing the EBT system.

The EBT system will allow WIC participants to purchase authorized WIC foods using an electronic card, similar to a debit card. The fundamental technologies for operating this EBT system will include online magnetic stripe card technology and real time integrated technology. WIC retailers who are operating with EBT only Point of Sale (POS) devices provided for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) transactions will have the option to be issued replacement equipment programmed for processing both SNAP and WIC transactions or choosing an integrated system provider. The first step in EBT-WIC development is to determine the existing type of devices currently being used at your store so that a system can be built maximizing use of existing case register/POS devices.

Pricing Vouchers

We are encouraging vendors to instruct cashiers to price vouchers before obtaining the WIC participant's signature. The participant's signature is verification that the food was purchased at the price entered in the "Actual \$ Amount" box. Under no circumstances should a participant be requested to sign a voucher before a price entry has been made. Failure to enter the price before asking for the participant's signature is a sanctionable offense that may result in sanction points and/or disqualification from the WIC Program.

Voucher Date Verification

In accordance with your WV WIC Vendor Agreement, vendors are required to identify the date in which the voucher was accepted by imprinting the register stamp on the back of the voucher. The register information should contain the date of acceptance and the amount of purchase. Vendors who do not have cash registers with this capability are required to manually write or affix a "stamp date" of the actual date of sale on the back of the WIC voucher. It is recommended that cashiers be instructed to manually write or affix the stamp date at the end of a WIC sale. Failure to abide by your WIC Vendor Agreement could cause your store's vendor agreement to be terminated.

Participant's Choice

It has come to our attention that some stores are not allowing WIC participants to purchase name brand WIC Approved food items when store brands are cheaper. It is the participant's choice of which item she/he would like to purchase and cashiers should not limit WIC participants to purchase only store brands when name brands are available. Participants are not to be directed to purchase discounted food items due to impending expiration dates, or fruits and vegetables on sale due to declining level of freshness. Restricting/limiting a WIC participant's choice of WIC Approved Food items is a sanctionable offense.

Expired WIC Food/Formula

Vendors Monitors have noticed an increase in expired food/formula remaining on store shelves beyond the expiration date. It's the store's responsibility to check the dates on all food/formula currently available for sale and continue to monitor expiration dates. Formula routinely has a twelve (12) month shelf life when it arrives at your store. If a vendor monitor visits your store and discovers expired food/formula on your store shelves, your store may receive sanction point assessments and be required to attend mandatory training.

Edits

New edits sheets for October, November and December 2011 are included in this mailing. These edits will become effective October 1, 2011. Beginning October 1, 2011, vouchers accepted should be checked against the enclosed edit sheets before depositing in the bank to prevent bank rejections. Our banking agent will start using the edit sheets on October 1, 2011. Vendors, please check in the right hand corner of your edit sheets to ensure that you have received the correct edits for your vendor class. Failure to check for correct Vendor Class Edits could cause your store to have rejected vouchers for "Over Max \$ Amount" which will not be paid.



TO CLEAN YOUR VENDOR STAMP!

WEST VIRGINIA
Department of



Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor
Michael J. Lewis, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

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