

Spring 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

Early Cashing/Stale Dated

Early Cashing and Stale Dated voucher returns can be minimized by reminding cashiers to always verify vouchers are within the valid dates to spend before allowing a WIC sale. WIC vouchers have a specific date range printed on them and if it's between those dates, a vendor may accept the presented vouchers. The valid period for acceptance begins on the date indicated as the "first date to spend" and ends on the date indicated as "last date to spend." Vouchers accepted outside the valid time frame will be denied for payment. Bank rejections for Early Cashing and Stale Dated occur when cashiers do not follow proper voucher acceptance procedures covered in detail in the Cashier's Training Guide. If your store would like to obtain a copy of the Cashier's Guide please contact the Vendor Management Unit at (304) 558-1115 or download a copy from our website www.ons.wvdhhr.org.

Formula Update

Abbott Nutrition, the manufacturer of Similac infant formulas, recently announced the shortage of powdered Similac Sensitive for Spit-Up has been resolved. All production facilities are operating at full capacity and they anticipate a good supply of Similac Sensitive for Spit-Up along with the other varieties of WIC contract formulas to be widely available within the next four to six weeks. As you recall, WV WIC transitioned some infants from powdered to Ready-To-Feed (R-T-F) formula until the shortage was resolved. In the interim, we will still have participants seeking the R-T-F formula. We ask vendors to honor requests from participants who require R-T-F Similac Sensitive for Spit-Up formula.

Bread



Packaging for Weight Watcher's Whole Wheat and Multi-Grain Bread in 16 ounce loaves recently changed label design from burgundy and white to blue and white. While the pictures in the Love To Grow Cashier's Guide no longer resembles the current packaging, these two breads are still WIC Approved.

Some vendors are still refusing the purchase of 16 ounce Pepperidge Farm 100% Whole Wheat Cinnamon Swirl with Raisin Bread. Pepperidge Farm 100% Whole Wheat Cinnamon Swirl with Raisin Bread meets WIC criteria to be West Virginia WIC Approved. Bread pictured in the 2010 Love to Grow Cashier's Guide is WIC Approved in 16 ounce loaves **ONLY** and vendors should remind cashiers **not** to limit participants to purchase only store brand bread. Restricting a participant's choice of WIC Approved Food items is a sanctionable offense.

Canned Beans

Any brand of canned beans available in the range of 15 to 16 ounce cans is WIC Approved in the following types: Pinto Beans, Kidney Beans, Great Northern Beans, Navy Beans and Black Beans. Beans that contain: organics, added sugar, fats, oils, meats, or are **seasoned** are **NOT** WIC Approved.

Infant Formula

It has come to our attention that there may be some confusion about how formula types are printed on WIC vouchers. For clarification purposes, abbreviations listed on the vouchers are as follows: Concentrate appears as **Conc**; powder is listed as **Pwd**; and ready-to-feed may appear as **RTF** or **R-T-F**. Use this list of abbreviations to verify that the formula type being purchased matches the formula type listed on the voucher.

Juice

Minute Maid has recently introduced Minute Maid Premium Kid's Plus 100% Orange Juice in a 64 ounce container. This juice meets WIC criteria to be West Virginia WIC Approved. Vendors should check their inventory of 64 ounce juice to ensure that the container size hasn't changed to 59 ounces. Only juice available in 64 ounce containers and are pictured in the Love to Grow Cashier's Guide are WIC Approved in addition to 100% Orange Juice and 100% Grapefruit Juice which are WIC Approved in any brand in 64 ounce containers.

Edit Sheets

Edit sheets for April, May and June 2011 are included in this mailing. These edits will become effective April 1, 2011. Beginning April 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 April 1, 2011. Vendors, please check in the right hand corner of your edit sheets to ensure that you have received the correct vendor edits for your class. Failure to check for correct Vendor Class Edits could cause your store to have rejected vouchers for "Over Max \$ Amount."



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