

Winter 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

Formula Update

Abbott Nutrition, the manufacturer of Similac infant formula, recently announced there will continue to be a shortage of Similac Sensitive for Spit-Up powder. In an effort to correct the shortage of this type of powdered formula, Abbott Nutrition will be increasing production of their ready to feed formula. WV WIC will be transitioning some infants from powdered to ready to feed formula until the shortage is resolved. In the interim, we are asking vendors to do what they can to honor requests from our participants who require Similac Sensitive for Spit-Up in the ready to feed form. We also ask, if practical, to adjust your inventory so this type of formula in the ready to feed form may be more widely available to the WV WIC Participant.

Early Redemptions of Cash Value Vouchers

In our last newsletter, we advised all vendors to be sure cashiers understand they are not to accept Cash Value Vouchers either prior to the first date to spend, or after the last date to spend. We continue to see a high number of these vouchers being accepted prior to their valid dates to spend. We ask you to continue to train your cashiers to be vigilant when accepting any voucher, and pay particular attention to the valid dates of the voucher presented. Remember, every time your store accepts any Voucher type that is outside the valid dates to spend, you may not be reimbursed for that voucher. Cash Value Vouchers are to be processed the same as the standard food voucher in that they cannot be:

- Accepted prior to the first date to spend, nor accepted past the last date to spend.
- The sale price written on the voucher may not exceed the face value of the voucher.
- The WIC Participant/Proxy must sign the voucher only after the cashier has written the price of the sale on the voucher.

This process is covered in detail within the Cashier Training Handbook. If you desire a copy, you may either contact the Vendor Management Unit at (304) 558-1115 or download a copy from our website www.ons.wvdhhr.org.

Canned Beans

Effective October 1, 2010, WV WIC Participants may purchase canned beans that range in size between 15 and 16 ounces. Please refer to your 2010 Love to Grow Cashier's Guide for further guidance and the list of eligible varieties available to the WIC participant for purchase.

WIC Approved Bread

It has been brought to our attention a few stores may be denying participants the purchase of WIC approved breads other than their approved store brands. Any bread that is pictured in the 2010 Love to Grow Cashier's Guide is eligible for purchase, regardless if one of your store brands is also approved. Restricting participants from purchasing WIC approved foods is a sanctionable offense. If your store is one that has a store brand as a WIC approved bread, please inform cashiers participants are not restricted to only the store brand of bread.

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 **RFT** or **R-F-T**. Use this list of abbreviations to verify that the formula type being purchased matches the formula type listed on the voucher.

Annual Training

Recently you were informed we could no longer accept the quarterly newsletter as meeting your Federally required annual training. To meet this goal, WV WIC has posted a training presentation on our website www.ons.wvdhhr.org. There is a roster and question sheet that accompanies the training presentation that must be completed and returned to the Vendor Unit so you may receive credit for annual training. Regardless if you recently attended a training session, annual training must be completed. A separate notice is included with this newsletter listing instructions on how to complete the annual training requirements.

Edit Sheets

Edit sheets for January, February and March 2011 are included in this mailing. These edits will become effective January 1, 2011. Vouchers accepted January 1, 2011 should be checked against the enclosed edit sheets before depositing. Our banking agent will begin using the enclosed edit sheets on January 1, 2011.

Happy Holidays!

WEST VIRGINIA
Department of



Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor
Michael J. Lewis, Cabinet Secretary

**The WIC'r Basket is published quarterly
by the West Virginia WIC Program**

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