

SPRING 2012 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)**

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.

The first series of Equipment Assessment Meetings were held in March 2012 for the Mid-Ohio Valley Pilot Area. Meetings for the remaining regions are planned for April 2012 and vendors will be notified by mail of the dates, times, and locations. Vendors, please plan on attending the Equipment Assessment Meeting in your area to learn more about e-WIC, the benefits of e-WIC, how it affects your lane operation and if your current Point of Sale (POS) System may already be programmed for processing e-WIC.

## **Infant Fruits and Vegetable Blends**

Effective April 1, 2012, the West Virginia WIC Program will be adding baby food blends to the list of WIC Approved Food items. Allowable infant fruits and vegetables in four (4) ounce jars may include a single ingredient, a combination of ingredients or a blend of up to three (3) fruits and vegetables combined with no added sugars, starches, or salt (i.e. green beans, corn, and applesauce or peaches, squash, and cherries). Infant vegetables with added potatoes have also been added to the list of WIC Approved Food items. WIC participants may purchase any brand of four (4) ounce infant fruits and vegetables as long as they meet WV WIC criteria outlined in the Love to Grow Shopping Guide.

## **Juice**

It has come to our attention that some WIC approved refrigerated juice in 64 ounce containers have been downsized to 59 ounces. Vendors should not substitute 59 ounce juice for 64 ounces. Substituting any other size juice than what is written in the voucher message is a sanctionable offense which could access your store sanction points and mandatory training. If you have any other questions please contact the Vendor Management Unit at (304) 558-1115.

## Cash Value Vouchers

Upon reviewing the redemption history on Cash Value Vouchers (CVV) cashiers are continuing to write the incorrect purchase price on CVV. Cashiers should be instructed to write the exact amount of the transaction when the sale price doesn't exceed the face value of the CVV. If the sale price exceeds the face value of the CVV, the cashier should write in the dollar amount equal to the face value of the CVV. If the purchase price of the fresh fruits and fresh vegetables exceeds the face value amount of the CVV, the WIC participant is responsible for the difference, plus tax, if paying by cash, debit or credit card. If the participant uses the SNAP (food stamp) card, no tax should be added. Allowing redemptions prior to the First Date to Spend of the CVV continues as the 2nd leading reason vouchers are rejected. Please instruct cashiers to carefully check both the First Date to Spend as well as the Last Date to Spend.

## Over Maximum Dollar Amount

Vouchers rejected from the banking system for "Over Max \$ Amount" should be repriced at the vendor's actual shelf price and not priced at the edit before submitting to the State WIC Office for payment. Pricing above shelf price is a sanctionable offense. We understand that there are times when a vendor doesn't know exactly what food items a participant purchased. In this instance, the vendor should price the voucher with the highest shelf price for all items listed on the voucher with the exception of milk which is the least expensive. If the actual shelf price is over the State's current edit, you must submit sufficient justification (i.e. invoice) for reimbursement consideration. If you have any questions, please contact the Vendor Management Unit at (304) 558-1115.

## Rain Checks/Due Bills

If your store is unable to fill a voucher, you may want to suggest another store in the area to the WIC participant to get the voucher filled. Rain checks and due bills cannot be given, and may result in sanction points being assessed and mandatory training.

## Edits

New edit sheets for April, May and June 2012 are included in this mailing. These edits will be effective April 1, 2012. Vouchers accepted prior to April 1, 2012 should be checked against the current edit sheets and the new edit sheets before depositing into the bank to prevent bank rejections. Our banking agent will start using the new edit sheets on April 1, 2012.

WEST VIRGINIA  
Department of



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