

4.04 Infant Food Package Birth through 11 months

POLICY:

Food Package I is designed for issuance to infant participants from birth through age 5 months who do not have a condition qualifying them for Food Package III. Food Package I includes three infant food packages available during the first month after birth – fully breastfeeding, partially/minimally breastfeeding (1 can formula issuance), or fully formula feeding. Three infant food packages are available from 1 months through 5 months – fully breastfeeding, partially/minimally breastfeeding, or fully formula feeding.

Food Package II is designed for issuance to infant participants from 6 through 11 months of age who do not have a condition qualifying them for Food Package III. Food Package II includes three infant food packages available from 6 months of age through 11 months – fully breastfeeding, partially/minimally breastfeeding or fully formula fed.

Food Package III is designed for any infant from birth through 11 months with a medical condition documented by either a **WIC-53 Prescription Formula Form** or other medical documentation (see **Policy 4.09 Food Package III, Women, Infants and Children with Qualifying Medical Conditions**).

Note: infant formula requirements specified in this policy include standard contract infant formulas (see **Policy 4.02 Standard Contract Formula**).

Note: Formula is considered out-of-date on the first day of the month labeled as the expiration date.

PROCEDURE:

A. Fully Breastfeeding Infants

1. Fully breastfeeding infants receive no infant formula from the WIC Program in order to successfully establish breastfeeding.
2. Fully breastfeeding infants birth through 5 months are not provided any infant formula or supplemental foods.
3. Fully breastfeeding infants 6 through 11 months are provided a monthly allowance of supplemental foods.
 - a. The monthly allowance of supplemental foods for exclusively breastfeeding infants 6 through 11 months will be up to but not exceeding the following amounts:
 - i. 24 oz. infant cereal; and
 - ii. 256 oz. total infant fruits and/or vegetables; and
 - iii. 77.5 oz. infant meat

B. Partially Breastfeeding Infant

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1. Partially breastfeeding infants receive up to but not exceeding 104 reconstituted fluid ounces of standard contract powder form formula through the first month (30 days).
 - a. Partially breastfeeding infants cannot receive more formula through the first month even with a package change (i.e. fully formula feeding).
 - b. A formula change during the first 30 day will only be for formula that has not been opened or that has not been redeemed.

2. Partially breastfeeding infants birth through the first month (30 days) who are prescribed an exempt infant formula that is documented on a **Prescription Formula Form (WIC-53)** completed by a healthcare provider, will receive the prescribed amount, only up to the maximum monthly allowance of fully formula feeding infants (see **Policy 4.09 Food Package III – Women, Infants and Children with Qualifying Medical Conditions**).
 - a. The mother’s food package will be assigned based on the formula amount issued to the infant.

3. Partially breastfeeding infants age 1 through 5 months receive formula from the WIC Program in an amount up to but not to exceed approximately half the amount of infant formula allowed for a fully formula fed infant.
 - a. Partially breastfeeding infants 1 through 3 months can receive up to the maximum monthly allowance of:
 - i. 435 fl oz reconstituted powder formula; or
 - ii. 388 fl oz reconstituted liquid concentrate formula; or
 - iii. 384 fl oz RTF formula
 - b. Partially breastfeeding infants 4 through 5 months can receive up to the maximum monthly allowance of:
 - i. 522 fl oz reconstituted powder formula; or
 - ii. 460 fl oz. reconstituted liquid concentrate formula; or
 - iii. 474 fl oz RTF formula

4. Partially breastfeeding infants 6 through 11 months are provided with a monthly allowance of supplemental foods.
 - a. Partially breastfeeding infants 6 through 11 months can receive up to the maximum monthly allowance of:
 - i. 384 fl oz reconstituted powder formula or 315 fl oz. reconstituted liquid concentrate formula or 338 fl oz. RTF formula; and
 - ii. 24 oz. infant cereal; and
 - iii. 128 oz. total infant food fruits and/or vegetables

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5. When a breastfeeding parent requests a change to formula, the infant will receive a complete nutrition assessment. This assessment may be completed by a Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, Breastfeeding Coordinator, Breastfeeding Counselor, Nutrition Associate (CPA) or Nutritionist (CPA) based upon availability and staffing within the agency. The assessment will include but is not limited to:
 - a. How frequently the infant is breastfeeding;
 - b. How long the infant is breastfeeding at each feeding; and/or
 - c. Mom's feelings about breastfeeding

Note: see <https://wicbreastfeeding.fns.usda.gov/breastfeeding-check>
6. When food benefits have been issued for a current month and the Nutritionist/Nutrition Associate (CPA) has performed the full assessment and determined that the infant needs an increase in formula. The CPA will create a new food package with the increased formula amount and perform an Exchange/Increase transaction in the Crossroads system. This may create a mother/infant dyad mismatch. Crossroads will only allow an increase twice during the infant's first year. After the second increase, the mother/infant dyad must match, and all prescription changes will be effective for the next benefit period.

C. Minimally Breastfeeding Infants

1. Minimally breastfeeding infants receive up to but not to exceed 104 reconstituted fluid ounces of standard contract powder form formula through the first month (30 days).
 - a. Minimally breastfeeding infants cannot receive more formula through the first month (30 days) even with a package change (i.e. fully formula feeding).
 - b. A formula change during the first 30 day will only be for formula that has not been opened or that has not been redeemed.
2. Minimally breastfeeding infants birth through the first month (30 days) who are prescribed an exempt infant formula that is documented on a **Prescription Formula Form (WIC-53)** that is completed by a healthcare provider, will receive the prescribed amount, only up to the maximum monthly allowance of fully formula feeding infants (see **Policy 4.09 Food Package III – Women, Infants and Children with Qualifying Medical Conditions**).
 - a. The mother's food package will be assigned based on the formula amount issued to the infant.
3. Minimally breastfeeding infants 1 through 5 months receive formula from the WIC Program in an amount up to about half the amount of formula allowed for a fully formula fed infant but not more than the full amount of formula allowed for a fully formula fed infant.

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- a. Minimally breastfeeding infants 1 through 3 months can receive the maximum monthly allowance of:
 - i. 436-869 fl oz reconstituted powder formula; or
 - ii. 389-822 fl oz reconstituted liquid concentrate formula; or
 - iii. 385-831 fl oz RTF formula

- b. Minimally breastfeeding infants 4 through 5 months can receive the maximum monthly allowance of:
 - iv. 523-959 fl oz reconstituted powder formula; or
 - v. 461-895 fl oz. reconstituted liquid concentrate formula; or
 - vi. 475-912 fl oz RTF formula

4. Minimally breastfeeding infants 6 through 11 months are provided with a monthly allowance of supplemental foods.
 - a. Minimally breastfeeding infants 6 through 11 months can receive the maximum monthly allowance of:
 - i. 385-695 fl oz reconstituted powder formula or 316-629 fl oz reconstituted liquid concentrate formula or 339-642 fl oz. RTF formula; and
 - ii. 24 oz. infant cereal; and
 - iii. 128 oz. total infant food fruits and/or vegetables

5. When a breastfeeding parent requests a change to formula, the infant will receive a complete nutrition assessment. This assessment may be completed by a Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, Breastfeeding Coordinator, Breastfeeding Counselor, Nutrition Associate (CPA) or Nutritionist (CPA) based upon availability and staffing within the agency. The assessment will include but is not limited to:
 - a. How frequently the infant is breastfeeding;
 - b. How long the infant is breastfeeding at each feeding; and/or
 - c. Mom's feelings about breastfeeding

Note: see <https://wicbreastfeeding.fns.usda.gov/breastfeeding-check>

6. When food benefits have been issued for a current month and the Nutritionist/Nutrition Associate (CPA) has performed the full assessment and determined that the infant needs an increase in formula. The CPA will create a new food package with the increased formula amount and perform an Exchange/Increase transaction in the Crossroads system. This may create a mother/infant dyad mismatch. Crossroads will only allow an increase twice during the infant's first year. After the second increase, the mother/infant dyad must match, and all prescription changes will be effective for the next benefit period.

D. Temporary Formula Supplementation

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1. If a mother/infant dyad are receiving the fully breastfeeding package, and must **temporarily** supplement with formula, the food packages will be temporarily changed to a partially/minimally breastfeeding package depending on the amount of formula needed.
2. If a breast pump needs to be loaned, see **Policy 5.21 Use of Breast Pumps** to ensure the loan criteria has been met.
3. The temporary formula change in **Crossroads** lasts until the mother/infant dyad is reassessed and/or a new **Prescription Formula Form (WIC-53)** is provided.

E. Fully Formula Fed Infant

1. Fully formula feeding infants, birth through 5 months receive formula from the WIC Program in an amount not to exceed the maximum monthly allowances.
 - a. Fully formula feeding infants birth through 3 months can receive the maximum monthly allowance of:
 - i. 870 fl oz reconstituted powder formula; or
 - ii. 823 fl oz. reconstituted liquid concentrate formula; or
 - iii. 832 fl oz RTF formula
 - b. Fully formula feeding infants 4 through 5 months can receive the maximum monthly allowance of:
 - i. 960 fl oz reconstituted powder; or
 - ii. 896 fl oz. reconstituted liquid concentrate formula; or
 - iii. 913 fl oz. RTF formula
2. Fully formula feeding infants 6 through 11 months are provided with a monthly allowance of supplemental foods.
 - a. Fully formula feeding infants 6 through 11 months can receive the maximum monthly allowance of:
 - i. 696 fl oz. reconstituted powder or 630 fl oz. reconstituted liquid concentrate or 643 fl oz. RTF; and
 - ii. 24 oz. infant cereal; and
 - iii. 128 oz. total infant food fruits and/or vegetables

F. Prescribing Food Packages

1. Only a Nutritionist (CPA) or Nutrition Associate (CPA) is authorized to prescribe supplemental foods in quantities that meet the maximum monthly allowance (MMA) and are appropriate for the participant, taking into consideration the participant's age and nutritional needs.

REFERENCES:

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1. WIC Regulations 7 CFR 246.10 Supplemental Foods
2. USDA Breastfeeding Policy and Guidance, July 2016, Chapter 3, "Issuing Food Packages to the Breastfeeding Dyad"
3. USDA Breastfeeding Policy and Guidance, July 2016, Appendix C, "Food Package Issuance Protocols"
4. USDA Nutrition Services Standards, Chapter 13, Food Package Prescriptions
5. USDA Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, Food Package Policy and Guidance, Chapter 2, Food Package Design
6. USDA Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, Food Package Policy and Guidance Chapter 3, Determining Eligibility of WIC Foods
7. USDA Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, Food Package Policy and Guidance Chapter 4, Nutrition Tailoring of WIC Food Packages
8. USDA Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, Food Package Policy and Guidance Chapter 6, WIC Formula
9. WIC Policy Memorandum 2020-1 Donation of Unused, Returned Infant Formula