
George, Amy R (HSS)
RE: WIC Update for September 13

From: Wayne, Kathleen A (HSS)
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2013 3:58 PM
To: HSS DPA WIC Coordinators
Cc: HSS DPA WIC Juneau; HSS DPA WIC Anchorage; Olejasz, Aimee M (HSS); 'Danielle Rybicki'
Subject: WIC Update for September 13

Hi Everyone,

The countdown is on for Alaska WIC to transfer the SPIRIT system. It's only 25 more days until pilot begins and there are many things we need to get done. The good news is that UAT was very successful and we received a lot of good comments and suggestions on how to move forward. I understand there were some concerns about implementing a new client application, but as you will read in the SPIRIT update below, we're going to continue to use our current application. The state staff are talking with other SPIRIT user states to identify best practices and lessons learned on how to survive a system rollout. We'll do our best to make this transition as smooth as possible.

Thanks to all the SPIRIT champions.

Take care,
Kathleen

1. On line training---new toolkit about pregnancy weight gain at www.iom.edu/whattogaintoolkit.
2. Kim Ridle is retiring---Kim Ridle, DHSS Grants and Contracts Section, is retiring and her last day is Friday, September 13. The new WIC contact is Britten Burkhouse. She can be reached at britten.burkhouse@alaska.gov and her phone number is 465-4739. Please contact Britten with any WIC related question. Pass this along to your finance folks as well!
3. Quarterly Reports Addition---For the first quarter's Quarterly Report due October 31, 2013 please remember to include which staff have completed their PCS training "WIC Listens" and the date.

4. RD Teleconference---Please don't forget we'll be having an **RD meeting** on September 19th at 8:15 am for those who can attend. We'll be discussing Food package III. Bring your questions. I'll send a reminder out to coordinators next week with the slides and the handouts.
5. **WIChealth.org update.** Because of the recent increase in price for WIChealth.org, we now have to put it out to bid. We know an on-line education system is a very important tool. Unfortunately, the procurement system will not be done before our contract with wichealth.org lapses on September 30th. As we look for a way to have no break in on-line services, please let Jennifer Johnson know if your local agency uses wichealth.org, and needs to be include in the interim plan to continue services until we have another formal contract.
Jennifer.johnson@alaska.gov
- 6.



SPIRIT Update-

- Please note that there will be **no new applications** used during Pilot and Rollout. Only the questions that must be answered in SPIRIT (to get checks to print), that are currently not included on our existing applications will be added. These 4-12 questions will be placed at the end of the application to make it easier to identify and not interfere with your current familiarity of the application format.
- New applications, along with the nutrition assessment questions will be worked on later with your input. The USDA needs to be involved in the process as well.
- In SPIRIT, clinics will document all nutrition assessment in the SOAP note format, like you do now. The nutrition assessment section will be used at a later date. This will allow all the clinics to use SPIRIT similarly to how we use AK WIC currently. As our familiarity with Spirit increases, we will work together on developing new nutrition assessment questions. Additionally as our use/knowledge of SPIRIT increases, the ability to transition over to a paperless system is more achievable for those that would like to do so.
- Mid-certification assessments will be done though SPIRIT. We are working on a mid-cert card (*not* a mid-cert application) which can be taken to a health clinic for ht/wt/hgb and one or two simple client questions for assessment. These can be mailed, faxed, scanned, or brought into the clinic. As an option, if it is easier for your clinic to use the application for mid-cert assessments you may do so. We'll work with these cards during SPIRIT roll out.
- Attached is the Alaska WIC SPIRIT Readiness Guide. This document is designed to give you a focal point for your SPIRIT preparation discussions with your staff. We will update this document as we learn lessons from Pilot!
- FYI: There are many references in the Guide to document and procedure postings on the WIC Web Site. Some of these are still "under construction" but will be posted very soon.
- In order to learn how other states have prepared for the transition from their legacy system to SPIRIT, we are planning to have a teleconference between Alaska WIC clinic staff and WIC staff from other SPIRIT states. We will let you know as soon as we have specifics!

7. Molly Pessel is in Anchorage January 27 & 28, 2014 to present “Clinical Applications in Lactation Care”. The cost is \$400.

The course is appropriate as a final step in preparation for the IBCLC exam, or as an opportunity to collaborate with other experienced clinicians and problem solve complex case studies. The course sharpens assessment and patient care skills and provides a summary of your didactic education and clinical experience, focusing on case studies and critical thinking required for breastfeeding issues in maternal-child health.

Further details can be found at the link below-

SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY 27 & 28, 2014

The Alaska Breastfeeding Coalition Presents:
Clinical Applications in Lactation Care

Presenters:

Molly Pessel, RN, IBCLC

and

Ginna Wall, MSN, RN, IBCLC

Register on line:

<https://abcclinicalapplications.eventbrite.com/>

For Questions Contact:

Bridget McCleskey

Conference Coordinator

[907-694-5321](tel:907-694-5321)