

From: Wayne, Kathleen A (HSS)
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2014 8:00 AM
To: HSS DPA WIC Coordinators; Bennis, Don; Welch, Scooter (HSS Sponsored); O'Gara, Kathy (HSS Sponsored)
Cc: HSS DPA WIC Anchorage; HSS DPA WIC Juneau; Khmelev, Erin N (HSS); Olejasz, Aimee M (HSS); 'Danielle Rybicki' (afdr@uaa.alaska.edu)
Subject: WIC Update August 22

Hi All,

Attached is the position paper from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics on "Nutrition Guidance for Health Children Ages 2-11 Years." Interesting information and good to keep updated on our professional standards of practice.

WIC Success Story:

This is a 2-part story to be continued in the next Friday Update...

Recently a client came into our office late in her third trimester to apply for benefits. She was very quiet and challenging to engage in counseling. She expressed only a passing interest in breastfeeding information. We encouraged her to return after the birth if she needed any support or service.

She returned to our office a few days after her daughter was born to recertify herself and enroll her daughter in the program. During her certification she revealed that she was planning on breastfeeding as long as possible, had previously attempted to breastfeed her son but had discontinued after a week due to problems with his latch. When I asked her about her daughter's latch, she reported some discomfort/pain. She had begun to supplement formula secondary to concerns her daughter wasn't getting enough breast milk.

After reviewing the basic breastfeeding routine, and assuring her that baby was likely receiving "enough", she was still interested in receiving formula package but agreed to a partial package.

While I was completing her certification and generating her vouchers (for a partial package) a CLC was able to meet with her. They reviewed breastfeeding positions for obtaining a "good" latch and other strategies for managing her very large breasts and baby. I returned to complete her certification; Mom was more committed to breastfeeding and was receiving instructions for using a breast pump to aide in boosting her supply. Not only had her commitment to her goal to continue breastfeeding as along as possible increased but she also had increased tools for accomplishing her goal!

1. Peanut Butter Recall--The Food and Drug Administration has recalled several peanut butter and almond butter brands. Two Kroger (Fred Meyer) and Safeway products are among the recalled nut butters, but both products are almond butters. Kroger and Safeway brand peanut butters can continue to be purchased by WIC participants. There has been some confusion, since both Fred Meyer and Safeway carry some of the other labels that were recalled. The recall announcement, with all listed products and brands, is located at: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm410533.htm>
2. NEW Grants and Contracts Staff--- Donna Jones is our new state Grants and Contracts person assigned to WIC for SFY 15. Any correspondence for SFY14 should continue to be directed to Alicia Hughes-Skandjis at Alicia.hughes-skandjis@alaska.gov. Please let your finance personal know Donna's contact information:

Donna Jones
Grant Administrator
P.O. Box 110650
Juneau, AK 99811-0650
Phone: (907) 465-2836
Fax: (907) 465-3419
Donna.Jones@alaska.gov

3. **800 Numbers for Copper River Service Area**---Alaska Family Services has taken over the Valdez/Glennallen/Cordova WIC services and has toll free contact numbers (good in AK only):

Phone: 844-373-4467
Fax: 844-373-0640
4. **Changes to Heating Assistance Program**---see attachment. We recommend you post this flyer in your WIC clinics.
5. **WIChealth.org:** We'd like to continue encouraging LAs to use Wichealth.org as a method of quarterly nutrition education that's convenient for clients and geared to their individual stage of change. We received a question from wichealth.org, which is working on improving their support. **What is the biggest pain you have when using wichealthsupport.org?** Please send responses to Lauren Lester at lauren.lester@wmich.edu.
6. **ENPR update:** We recently had guidance from the Medicaid office regarding our ENPRs. We've been told that the WIC local agencies **do not** need to turn in the CNM with the ENPR for children and women- there is adequate information already on the ENPR to meet the needs of Medicaid DME (Durable Medical Equipment) providers (such as Procure). We were informed that CNMs were designed for doctors initiating the process of nutrition prescriptions on behalf of the client from the provider's office.
Also, **the diagnosis of prematurity now is acceptable until 3 years of age.**
Please call me with questions or concerns- Jennifer Johnson 465-8104
7. **Medicaid/DKC Outreach List**--the link below is for the May 2014 outreach list. New lists will be placed at the same site during September.
To access the list go
to: <https://extranet.dhss.alaska.gov/pa/wicspirit/Agency%20Reports/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fpa%2Fwicspirit%2FAgency%20Reports%2F1%2E%20MEDICAID%20REPORTS%2FMay%202014>
Please contact Dana Kent if you have questions at dana.kent@alaska.gov or 465-5322.
8. **Breastfeeding Highlights**--You may be interested in following the Office on Women's Health blog with Nancy Lee and the National Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition: *You Shouldn't Have to Choose Between Your Job and Breastfeeding*. The blog highlights OWH's *Supporting Nursing Moms at Work: Employer Solutions* and shares the story of how Rebecca Flores made work and breastfeeding work for her. You can view it at: <http://www.hmhb.org/blog/>. You can also read OWH's Spotlight Interview with Rebecca Flores at: <http://www.womenshealth.gov/news/spotlights/2014/8.html>

The Food and Nutrition Service, in partnership with the National Agricultural Library, Food and Nutrition Information Center, is pleased to announce the release of a new mobile-friendly website, <http://lovingsupport.nal.usda.gov/>.

The site brings together *Loving Support Makes Breastfeeding Work* campaign materials for easy access. *Loving Support Makes Breastfeeding Work* is the United States Department of Agriculture's national breastfeeding promotion campaign. The campaign's goals are to increase breastfeeding initiation rates among WIC participants, increase breastfeeding duration among WIC participants, increase referrals to WIC for breastfeeding support and increase general public acceptance and support of breastfeeding. The website targets resources to the campaign audiences of WIC Moms, Family & Friends, WIC Staff, and Community Partners.

9. **National Breastfeeding Month (NBM) 2014**-- USBC is hosting a social media campaign inviting participants to share six word stories on what breastfeeding means to them. Participants are posting "selfie" photographs on Facebook and/or Twitter, holding a sign with their six word story using the hashtags #NBM14 and #SixWords. Each week the campaign is also focusing on a specific sector/system of support, with Twitter chats and advocacy tools to inspire education and action to support breastfeeding families from the grassroots to the treetops.
10. **Change in Vendor Staff Reminder** – Kristen Stouder will begin work on Monday, August 25th as a new Assistant Vendor Coordinator, and lead staff for monitoring and compliance. Her phone number is 907/465-6399, and her email that will be activated later in the week will be kristen.stouder@alaska.gov.



11.

SPIRIT Tips and Reminders:

Please remember to give only **FIVE** FMNP coupons per participant. If a family has more than one FMNP Coupon recipient, assign FIVE coupons to each eligible member. SPIRIT will not allow more than five to be assigned per family member.

SPIRIT Information:

The Reasons Blood Work Was Not Collected has been changed in SPIRIT.

Dana explained the upcoming change in her Guidance on HGB Collection included in last week's Friday Update.

"Reason Blood Work Was Not Collected" is used if the hemoglobin test is skipped because the client's certification remains within compliance and will not be out of compliance by the next appointment. This is not required when the "Delayed Blood Work" box is marked. In this case, do not select an option.

When blood work is not required at the appointment (appointment is not a certification or recertification), an assessment should be done by the CPA to determine that if the hemoglobin test can be skipped and if the client will still be in compliance by the next certification appointment.

The drop down now has these choices:

the Add Blood Measurement

th

is

Measurement Date 8/20/2014

Age at Measurement

Hemoglobin (gm/dl)

Hematocrit (%)

Lead (ug/dl)

E.P. (ug/dl)

Delayed Blood Work

Reason Blood Work Was not Collected

Religious Beliefs
Medical Condition
MCA: HGB was good at most recent certification

In all cases, choosing the appropriate response to the situation from the drop down box will not stop benefits from being printed.

Fresh Milk on Mailed FIs report.

A report has been created listing all participants receiving Mailed FIs with Fresh Milk as a food item on their checks.

This report was requested to assist those clinics that mail benefits and have to change fresh milk food prescriptions to UHT/Evaporated or UHT/Dry Milk.

The report is attached.

SPIRIT Help Desk Info:

Send all questions, issues and errors to the WIC SPIRIT Helpdesk at wicpsirithelpdesk@alaska.gov or phone them at 907-334-4900. |

From: do_not_reply@alaska.gov
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2014 9:00 AM
To: Wayne, Kathleen A (HSS)
Subject: Message from WICJCOGLB01C
Attachments: SWICJCOGLB014081907590.pdf

New Requirements and Important Changes For The Heating Assistance Program

- Beginning this season we will need to know how much energy a household uses. We must collect annual usage from both their heating vendor and their electric provider.
- We need copies of clients' most recent bills/invoices from both their heating and electric vendors to verify a household's account number and proof of service. If these are not sent in with the application, we will not be able to determine eligibility.
- Starting this year we will also be checking credit balances on accounts. If a household has a credit with their heating vendor on their account that is greater than one year's usage, they will not receive another grant until the credit is exhausted. If they have less than a year's worth of use in credits, we will process the application. This is supported by our regulations which state that an applicant must have \$200 a year in out of pocket costs to qualify.
- We are now required to have a copy of a social security card or state-issued ID card for at least the head of household, but preferably for all household members, in our clients' files. Please make sure to remind clients to include these with the application. We will not be able to process the case until we have these copies. Further guidance detailing all acceptable forms of ID will be included with the Heating Assistance manual change October 1.
- Vendors will no longer be able to use heating assistance awards to pay off debt incurred prior to the start of the season unless the customer is in jeopardy of being shut off or needs a payment to reconnect service. What does this mean? If a client has not paid their bill over the summer, their heating assistance benefit will not be applied to their past debt; they will need to make an arrangement to pay that debt off. The heating assistance grant will be used for fuel/power consumed starting on October 1, 2014.
- If a client heats with wood, they will need to submit receipts showing they have spent at least \$200 for wood used to heat their home.
- If a household cuts their own wood (self-harvests), they must provide receipts for chain saws, blades, or other equipment needed and used to harvest and transport the wood.
- One goal of the program is to eliminate direct payments to households that heat with wood (per federal requirements). We have been recruiting wood cutters throughout the state to become official vendors. If official vendors are available in the area, one of our eligibility technicians may call the household to ask you which vendor they'd like to use. We can also try to recruit the vendor the client uses if they provide the Heating Assistance Office with their contact information including name, address and phone number.

- **This year's application has changed. Please do not use the old applications.** There are a number of new, required questions that must be answered for the purpose of federal data collection for performance measures. **Applications need to be completed in full before they can be process.**

Reminder: Applications must be postmarked between September 1 and April 30. Payments are awarded beginning November 1. If a household is determined eligible, they will receive one heating assistance grant during this period. The payment is made to the heating vendor as a credit to their account or, in some cases, directly to the client. Be sure the client reads the "Agreement to Receive Heating Assistance" on page 5, sign and date their application. Applications must be received in the Heating Assistance office no later than 60 days after the client signs the application. If it is more than 60 days from the time of signature, the client will need to complete a new application because we base eligibility on income from the month prior to the date they signed the application.