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**Subject:** WIC Friday Update November 20  
**Date:** Friday, November 20, 2015 2:57:38 PM  
**Attachments:** [Nondiscrimination Statement 2015 \(Spanish Translation\).doc](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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Hi Everyone,

An Alaska tree is at our nation's Capital----For the first time ever the Capitol Christmas Tree is from Alaska. <http://www.capitolchristmastree.com/>. The 2015 tree made its historic journey from the Chugach National Forest in Alaska to Washington D.C. for the holiday season. The tree departed Alaska in early November. Here is picture of the tree outside Visit Anchorage's Visitor Information Center, in the 80-foot - adjustable wheel base – custom built trailer.

Tis the season, have a great weekend.

Kathleen



1. [Nondiscrimination Statement in Spanish](#)---please see attached.

## 2. SPiRiT Alert & Workarounds

### **Official Notice for Clients Turning 5 Years Old**

Alaska certifies children for one year but Alaska does not certify children to end of the month in which they turn 5 years old.

SPiRiT ends the certifications of five year olds the day before they turn 5. So when you print the Official Notice, it says the participant will no longer receive benefits because "Recertification Due".

Workaround:

If a 5YO's cert ends before their 5th birthday, you need to terminate the participant, choosing categorical ineligibility for the reason and print the term notice which will include the proper notice as categorically ineligible (turning 5 years old).

## 3. Guided Script and Client is Over Income

When a client is in the middle of the guided script and income is entered and they are over income, SPiRiT will print an official notification. But there is no record of this in the general notes. (unlike every other notification letter printed). Also the show details do not indicate that the client is over income either. Unless an alert is

put in, it's very difficult to figure out why this client's cert wasn't completed.

Workaround:

If the last tab of demographics (AdditionalInfo2) is viewed, it shows that the client is ineligible for WIC because they are over income. Clinics scan the ineligibility notice into the folder and/or create an alert.

#### **4. Change to SPIRIT Over the Weekend**

##### **Lactose-Free/Reduced Milk Alert**

Occasionally a quart of lactose reduced milk will appear on an FI when the food package has been prorated for some reason. Over the weekend the SPIRIT team will change how lactose-free milk appears on prorated packages. The packages will now only have gallons and half-gallons of lactose reduced milk which will now distribute over the benefit months.

##### **Success Story**

YKHC provides this week's success story:

A village WIC participant with a child who was soon to turn 5 yrs.old sent a written note to WIC staff stating the following (modified for privacy): "I understand this is the last voucher for my child. I would like to thank you all for offering this WIC Program. It sure helps my family. Keep up the awesome work you all do for families in helping to keep them healthy. Quyana."

#### **5. EBT----Great News!!!!**

Alaska WIC has taken another step toward implementing Electronic Benefits (EBT).

As discussed at the coordinator's conference Alaska WIC joined forces with the Idaho, Hawaii and Nebraska WIC programs to be part of the Western States EBT Alliance (WSEA). This week after months of contract review and negotiations WSEA sent out the notice to award a contract to FIS/CDP for the implementation of EBT for WSEA WIC states. So, what does this mean for Alaska WIC? Starting this month and continuing throughout all of next year and into 2017, we will be working with the contractor to plan and successfully implement EBT in the clinics, the stores and the WIC state office. There will be more information shared as it comes available, but as of right now, we will be piloting EBT in July 2017 with statewide rollout to follow in October 2017. Please keep in mind that is schedule is only tentative. We will keep you informed and updated on the progression to EBT throughout the entire process.

#### **6. SPIRIT Help Desk Info:**

Send all questions, issues and errors to the WIC SPIRIT Helpdesk at [wicpsirithelpdesk@alaska.gov](mailto:wicpsirithelpdesk@alaska.gov) or phone them at 907-334-4900.

#### **7. Question for Local Agencies-Please Respond by COB Tuesday, November 24**

We are currently deleting quarts of lactose reduced milk in SPIRIT (see note under SPIRIT

changes).

Please let Dana Kent at 465-5322 or [dana.kent@alaska.gov](mailto:dana.kent@alaska.gov) know whether you have had any comments or complaints from clients about finding quarts of regular milk (whole fat, 2%, 1% or skim) at the store. In cases where food packages are prorated, quarts may appear on an FI. We want to make sure that quarts are available and clients are getting the amount of milk they should receive.