



Nebraska WIC Program

WIC VENDORS' UPDATE

GROCERY STORE EDITION

April 2013

WIC EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer)

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Nebraska WIC is in the planning phase to replace WIC checks with EBT cards.

Assessing the technical capabilities of Nebraska WIC retailers for EBT implementation.

A new WIC EBT section has been added to the WIC Retail Vendor Homepage. Updates and information regarding EBT will be posted here.

As we move forward we will keep you posted of the progress we are making and we encourage feedback from you. Please submit questions via e-mail to:

Our website address is:
dhhs.ne.gov/wic

regina.paschold@nebraska.gov

The WIC EBT Retailer Kick-Off Meeting was held on March 14, 2013 in Lincoln. The power point presentation shared at the meeting is available on the vendor homepage in the WIC EBT section.

Or via postal mail to the following address:

Nebraska WIC Program
301 Centennial Mall South
PO Box 95026
Lincoln, NE 68509
Attention: Regina Paschold

There are proposed rules for EBT which have been issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before May 29, 2013. There is a link to the proposed rule in the WIC EBT section.

Thanks to everyone who responded to the WIC EBT Vendor Survey that was conducted in January. The information provided is important in as-



Special Formula Pricing Information

Prices for special formulas allowed through the Nebraska WIC program are posted on our WIC website.

The prices are subject to periodic updates.

If you have any questions please contact Regina Paschold, WIC Vendor Management Coordinator at 402-471-2781 to discuss.

Formula Name & Label Change

The name of **Nutramigen AA** has changed to **PurAmino**.

The label has also changed to reflect the new name.

The size has not changed.

The product has not changed.

During the transition the WIC check will read:

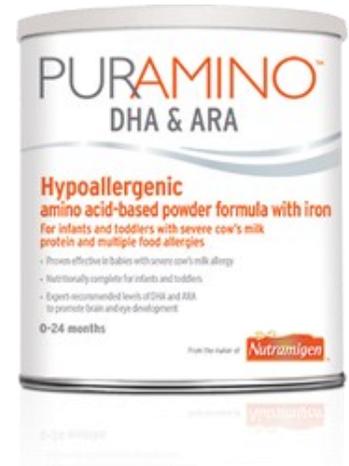
Nutramigen AA OR PurAmino PWD 14.1 oz

Either labeled product is allowed with this check.

The UPC has changed. It is:

PurAmino Pwd Can 14.1 oz.

Unit UPC = 300875104781



PROBLEM CHECKS Q & A

Q. Are gel pens or colored ink pens okay to use for WIC checks?

A. No.

The cashier should **always use a black ink pen** to write in the date and the purchase amount on the WIC check. The WIC shopper should also sign the check with a **black ink pen**.

Q. Is it okay to obtain the WIC shopper's signature first before the WIC transaction begins?

A. No.

The WIC shopper should **only** sign the check **after** the cashier has entered the date and the purchase amount on the check

Vendor Stamp Reminder

The number of checks returned for missing and/or unreadable vendor stamp has increased.

Accurate vendor number identification has become an even more important factor in the processing world as we process more IRDs (Image Replacement Documents – where

the original is reduced in size and the new image is sent).

Please remember to clearly stamp each WIC check with your vendor number stamp before depositing. The vendor number stamp must be on the check for payment.

WIC Website Address:
dhhs.ne.gov/wic

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Review with your bookkeeping staff the following guide.

BOOKKEEPER'S GUIDE TO WIC UPDATE

NEBRASKA WIC AUTHORIZED VENDOR NUMBER STAMP

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- ◇ Ensure you are using the correct stamp (your Nebraska WIC Authorized Vendor Number Stamp).
- ◇ Endorse back of each check.
- ◇ Ensure stamp works well; use **BLACK** ink.
- ◇ Deposit checks for payment.
- ◇ Stamp each WIC check in the "Pay to the Order of" box.
- ◇ Order new or replacement stamps from your WIC vendor manager.

The good news is that there are many simple and easy things that can be done to help ensure your presentments are readable. Here are the five most important tips.

1. Frequently check the condition of your stamp. Are all the digits visible? Are they clear and distinct? Are there extra marks or missing parts occurring in the stamping of the items? If so, clean or replace your stamp. For replacements, contact your WIC vendor manager.
2. Use **BLACK** ink. Other colors used in the stamping process will not copy as clearly when an image is made of the check.
3. Make sure the stamp has sufficient ink. Dark and distinct stamps have higher resolution.
4. Make sure the checks and stamps are positioned correctly. Is the stamp being placed in the correct location and is the stamp being used correctly (not upside down, etc.)?
5. Check the "QUALITY" of each mark made by the stamping process. If the stamp is smudged, short a digit, too faint, etc. this can lead to higher return rates of unreadable items.

Most vendor stamps that are unreadable fall into one of the following categories:

Outcome	Solution
The numbers may be indistinguishable. For example, 3's look like 8's or 6's look like 0's.	This may indicate a thorough cleaning is needed or due to wear of the stamp it may need to be replaced. To clean your stamp, use warm soapy water and a toothbrush. If you need to replace your stamp, contact your WIC vendor manager.
The quality of the mark being made is poor as not enough care was taken in the placement of the stamping.	A quality review of the items once stamped will indicate if a new mark needs to be struck.
Not enough ink is used as the mark is too faint.	The use of <u>BLACK</u> ink for stamping will lessen this type of outcome.

Also available on our WIC website