

Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to define the status/categories of breastfeeding women and breastfeeding infants, and to discuss appropriate food package assignment for each status.

**Supporting
 Breastfeeding**

The Nebraska WIC Program advocates breastfeeding as the ideal method of infant feeding during the first twelve months of life. The use of iron-fortified formula is recommended when breastfeeding is discontinued or not possible. The competent professional authority shall encourage the mother to continue breastfeeding without supplementation whenever possible.

Using fully breastfeeding as the standard of infant feeding– the amount of breastfeeding determines food package assignment for mother-baby pairs.

- Mothers and babies who are fully breastfeeding or mostly breastfeeding during the infants first month of life do not receive WIC formula.
- Mothers and baby’s with a status of “mostly breastfeeding” or “some breastfeeding” receive support to reach their breastfeeding goals, and quantities of formula based on the amount they are breastfeeding, and in minimal amounts to support maximum breastfeeding.

**Status Descriptions
 for Mother-Baby
 Pairs**

The following table defines the available status categories for use in the WIC computer system:

<p>Fully Breastfeeding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infant is fed breastmilk for all feedings. • Infant does not receive WIC formula 	<p>Mother Status – BF1 Baby Status – IBF</p>
<p>Mostly Breastfeeding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infant is fed breastmilk for nearly all feedings 	<p>Mother Status – BF1 Baby Status – IBF</p>
<p>Some Breastfeeding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infant is fed breastmilk on the average of at least 1 time per day 	<p>Mother Status – BF2 Baby Status – IPB</p>
<p>Postpartum – Formula Feeding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infant is fed formula for all feedings. 	<p>Mother Status – PPW/PPT Baby Status – IFF</p>

Food Packages

The WIC computer system allows food package assignment/issuance based on participant status. Only food packages appropriate for breastfeeding status selected can be assigned.

Breastfeeding Status Change

- A breastfeeding mother-baby pair may change status at any time during the certification period, if the amount of breastfeeding changes. Staff must change both the status of the woman and the infant upon this event. The breastfeeding status of mother-baby pairs must match.
- Breastfeeding now, ever and how long fields also must be updated in the WIC computer system when the status of an infant is changed.
- If the breastfeeding status of a mother-baby pair changes to “Some Breastfeeding” when the infant is over 6 months of age; the breastfeeding woman must be notified of the change in her benefits, according to WIC procedure manual Volume I, Section D, page 13.

Prescribing Food Packages for Women and Infants with the Status of “Fully Breastfeeding”

The food package for the fully breastfeeding woman provides the maximum monthly allowance of WIC foods. This food package for breastfeeding women should serve as a program incentive to initiate and continue breastfeeding.

- Food package VII will be issued to any breastfeeding woman who is fully breastfeeding her infant and elects **not** to receive any amount of infant formula provided by WIC.
 - This food package is also designed for issuance to women pregnant with twins or multiples; and to women with a “mostly breastfeeding” status that are breastfeeding twins or multiples.
 - Women with the status of “fully breastfeeding” twins or multiples receive 1.5 times the supplemental foods provided in food package VII.

Prescribing Food Packages for Women and Infants with the status of “Mostly Breastfeeding”

The breastfeeding woman’s food package V will be issued to women with the status of “mostly breastfeeding”; whose infants are status “mostly breastfeeding” and are receiving formula that does not exceed maximum allowances.

Infant food packages I-BF/FF; II-BF/FF; and III BF/FF will be issued to infants with the status of “mostly breastfeeding”.

Food packages for infants with the status of Mostly Breastfeeding offer the CPA the ability to nutritionally tailor the food packages for the infant and to select the appropriate food package based on the infant’s age and individual nutritional needs.

Prescribing Food Packages for Women and Infants with the status of “Mostly Breastfeeding”

An assessment of breastfeeding and supplemental formula intake must be completed by a WIC CPA to determine the appropriate quantity of formula needed to support the individual breastfeeding goals.

Prescribing Food Packages for Women and Infants with the status of “Some Breastfeeding”

The woman’s food package VI will be issued to women with the status of “some breastfeeding”, whose infants are the status of “some breastfeeding” and receiving infant formula in amounts that exceed the maximum for “Mostly Breastfeeding” status.

Infant food packages I-FF, II-FF, and III-FF will be issued to infants with the status of “some breastfeeding”.

Food packages for infants with the status of “some breastfeeding” offer the CPA the ability to nutritionally tailor the food packages for the infant and to select the appropriate food package based on the infant’s age and individual nutritional needs.

An assessment of breastfeeding and supplemental formula intake must be completed by a WIC CPA to determine the appropriate quantity of formula needed to support the individual breastfeeding goals.

There are occasions when a “Some Breastfeeding” infant may require the maximum amount of formula. Care must be exercised to ensure that provision of the full food package to the infant does not interfere with or undermine the breastfeeding mother’s ability to maintain lactation.
