
Purpose

To provide guidance in designing a food package to meet the specific nutritional needs of the individual client.

Federal Regulations

Fed. Reg. 246.10 (c) states that the full maximum monthly allowances of all supplemental foods in all food packages must be made available to participants if medically or nutritionally warranted.

Regulations prohibit tailoring of benefits solely for the purpose of containing costs, administrative convenience, caseload management, or to control vendor abuse. Issuing less than the maximum monthly allowances of supplemental foods to an individual WIC participant is only appropriate when:

1. Medically or nutritionally warranted (e.g., to eliminate a food due to a food allergy);
2. A participant refuses or cannot use the maximum monthly allowances; or
3. The quantities necessary to supplement another programs' contribution to fill a medical prescription would be less than the maximum monthly allowances.

Regulations require that all food packages make available more than one food from each of the allowable WIC food categories with the exception of eggs and peanut butter.

Categorical tailoring is not allowed.

**Who May Tailor
Food Packages**

Only CPA's are allowed to tailor food packages for clients.

This includes adjusting or changing the amount of any food or formula up to the maximum amount allowed by federal regulations.

**Situations That May
Warrant Tailoring
Food Packages**

The following situations may warrant the issuance of a tailored food package:

- Lactose intolerance or milk allergy. Food Packages exist for women and children that provide alternatives to cow's milk or milk free of lactose. Soy milk is available to women who have lactose intolerance, milk intolerance, who practice a Vegan diet or for cultural reasons. Children may receive soy milk with a prescription from a medical authority on the Physician Authorization Form.
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**Situations That May
Warrant Tailoring
Food Packages
(cont.)**

- Baby food quantities may be tailored if the parent determines the baby is not consuming the full complement of baby food offered in the full infant package.
 - Food Package III may call for tailoring foods depending on the foods authorized by the physician. In addition to foods, special formula quantities may be tailored if the physician prescribes less than the maximum provided in the full food package.
 - Partially breastfed infants may receive a tailored food package, which provides the amount of formula that corresponds to the amount of breastfeeding the mother is providing.
 - Homeless families may need tailored food packages. Food instruments are designed to offer choice among foods, such as peanut, dried beans, and/or canned beans. This should be pointed out to the Responsible Party. A discussion should be held to determine the family's individual situation, food needs, food storage, and preparation facilities. A tailored food package is available to choose the foods that best meet the family's current situation.
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