

Purpose Provide guidance when prescribing and issuing food packages to clients as their age and/or category change during their current certification period.

Infant Food Packages Infant cereal may first be included on the infant's checks during the month the infant turns 4 months of age.

Juice may first be included on the infant's checks the month he/she turns 6 months of age.

Examples:

- Infant born in January may receive infant cereal on May checks.
 - Infant born in January may receive juice on July checks.
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Introduction of Whole Cow's Milk The Nebraska WIC Program recommends the introduction of whole cow's milk after one year of age and its continued use until the age of two.

- The WIC Program cannot issue cow's milk before 12 months of age.
 - Whole cow's milk is recommended between 12 and 24 months of age.
 - Skim, fat free, lowfat, and 1% cow's milk are not recommended for use between 12 – 24 months of age.
 - Two percent cow's milk can be used by children over age 1 year if growth is optimal and diet is varied and contains other sources of fat.
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Food Package For Infants Turning 1 Year Old Infants turning one year of age during a valid certification period would receive a child's food package for the month they turn one year old.

- The month the infant turns one year, the local agency would change the category from I to C, but the priority **would not** change according to guidelines in Volume II Section D.

Infants receiving bi-monthly checks may receive a child's package during the 30 days prior to their first birthday. Example: A child turns one on January 15th. On November 24th they receive bi-monthly checks. November checks would be an infant package. December checks could be either an infant or child package.

Issuing Partial Packages

In circumstances where a 30-day issuance period is not practical or valid a portion of a food package should be issued.

The issuance of a portion of a food package is considered a modification to the food prescription and therefore requires a CPA signature.

Circumstances where partial packages may be used include, but are not limited to :

- Bringing all clients in the family into one check pick-up schedule.
- Client requesting a change in check pick-up days.
- Joint custody or other situation in which a client is in the household for less than a full month.

Documentation of Food Package Assignment

The original food “prescription” must be documented in the client’s chart. The CPA documents this by signing on the designated line of the Certification Signature Form.

Changes to Food Package

Any change affecting the make up of the food package should be brought to the attention of the CPA. The CPA will sign off on the Certification Signature Form.

Nutrition Education

Utilize nutrition education to encourage the use of foods that have been found to be inadequate in the diet of the client and are being provided by the WIC Program.
