



Procedure: VENA Defined

Volume: Nutrition Services/Breastfeeding

Section: Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment Approval Date: 07.2013

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Revised Date:

Purpose

To explain Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment

Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment, VENA, encompasses all aspects of a WIC nutrition assessment. VENA policy provides information and guidance to enable WIC staff to perform a quality WIC nutrition and breastfeeding assessment that screens for all nutrition risk criteria as well as other health indicators.

The collection of comprehensive, relevant nutrition assessment information is necessary to deliver meaningful, participant centered nutrition services to WIC participants.

When conducting a nutrition assessment, the CPA must identify and assign all nutrition risk criteria for which an applicant qualifies. Nutrition services should be based upon participant's highest priority needs and their interests. Intervention and education are not required on all identified nutrition risk factors in one clinic visit.

Process of a Quality WIC Nutrition Assessment

VENA process includes:

- Collecting accurate, relevant and essential information.
- Applying communication skills to foster openness and rapport with the participant.
- Organizing, clarifying and synthesizing the collected information.
- Identify the pertinent and appropriate risks and drawing appropriate conclusions from the information collected.
- Prioritizing the concerns and working with the participant to identify solutions.
- Documenting the information and conclusions accurately.
- Providing follow-up on previous assessments and referrals as needed.

The method for collecting relevant nutrition assessment information is part of a health outcome based model as described by as described by USDA VENA Guidance Document.

Assessment/care plan forms are organized to allow staff to obtain relevant information according to VENA guidance.
