

WIC WORDS



Breastfeeding Update

February 2010

Notifying BF2 women – “Some Breastfeeding” of changes to benefits and food package when infant is 6 months of age.

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- On October 1, 2009, the new WIC food packages were implemented. One of the significant changes involve women who are both breastfeeding & formula feeding their infants – specifically those that fall into the “Some Breastfeeding” (BF2) category and whose infants are 6 months old.
- Moms that are doing “some breastfeeding” but are getting more formula for their baby than WIC allows for partially breastfeeding moms, will no longer be eligible to get WIC foods for themselves. Their baby will continue to get formula
- WIC staff are required to notify WIC clients about this change, how it impacts their WIC benefits and the options that are available to them.
- Notification can be given to breastfeeding women with babies 4 – 5 months old, during the WIC clinic visit before the baby turns 6 months old. BF2 women should be given the informational half sheet pictured below.
- Checks can be issued for the BF2 woman through the month the baby turns 6 months of age.
 - If mom is doing more BF, but is not quite in the “mostly” BF category, the WIC CPA should visit with her about what it would mean if she would choose to BF an additional amount.

Important Information about WIC Checks

For Moms with Infants 6 Months or Older, Doing Some Breastfeeding



WIC supports breastfeeding by offering the largest variety and quantity of WIC foods to moms who are “fully breastfeeding” their babies.

Now that your baby is 6 months of age or older, (or will be by your next appointment) and because you are currently doing some breastfeeding *but getting more formula for your baby than WIC allows* for partially breastfeeding moms, you will no longer get WIC checks for yourself at your next appointment.

You will still be on the WIC program and will continue to get breastfeeding support and nutrition education until your baby turns one year old.

If you decide to do more breastfeeding and get less formula, then you *may* be able to continue receiving WIC checks for yourself until your baby turns one.

Talk to your WIC Nutritionist or Nurse to help you decide what is best for you and your baby.

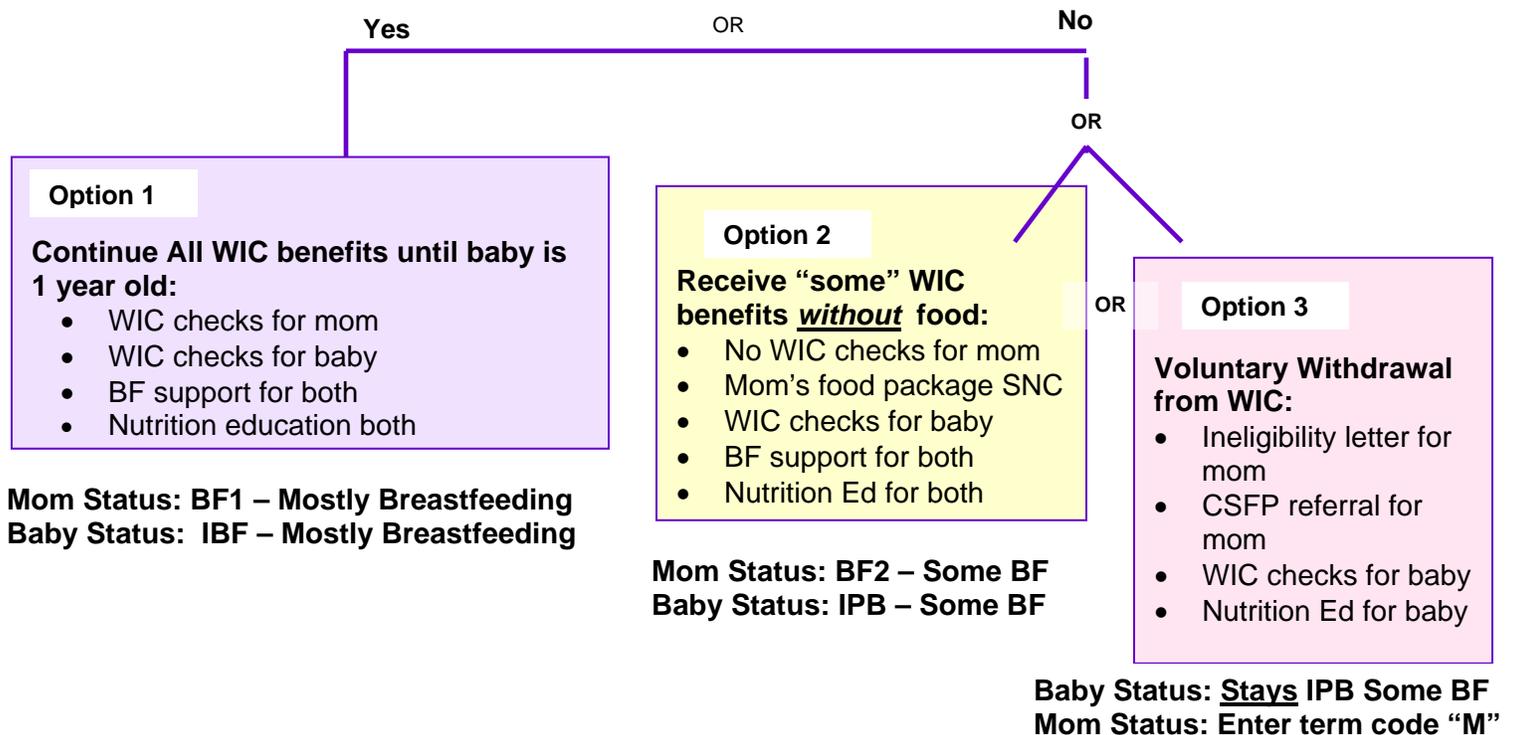
Change in Food Benefits for Mom

Are you able to breastfeed more & take less formula?

Staff Instructions - Notifying Women Who are 6 Months Postpartum & Doing "Some" Breastfeeding about Food Package Change

- For BF2 women with an infant 4-6 months of age – provide the informational ½ sheet Important Information about WIC Checks for Moms with Infants 6 Months or Older, Doing Some Breastfeeding.
- The following 3 options are available for these clients:
 - Option 1 - If the WIC mom is able to do more breastfeeding and take less formula, she may be able to continue receiving WIC checks for herself as well as nutrition education and breastfeeding support. This option should be discussed with the client.
 - Option 2 – The mom can remain on WIC and continue to receive breastfeeding support and nutrition education until the baby turns one year old. No WIC checks are received for the mom.
 - Option 3 - Voluntary withdrawal from WIC. Some women may chose not remain on WIC to get the breastfeeding support and nutrition education, if they aren't getting WIC checks for themselves. These women may voluntarily withdraw from the WIC program. If a woman chooses to withdraw, staff can provide a referral to CSFP.
- The flow chart below summarized the 3 options:

**Is the mother able to increase
breastfeeding & take less formula?**



Q & A's - 6 mo. (Some BF) Notification

Q – Can clients that are 6 months (Some Breastfeeding) that receive no food package continue on WIC just for nutrition education AND ALSO receive food benefits from CSFP?

A – No, if mom chooses to stay enrolled in WIC and receive nutrition education, she cannot receive CSFP.

Q – If a 6 month (Some BF) mom decides to withdraw from WIC, when can she go to CSFP?

A - If she chooses to voluntarily withdraw from WIC, then WIC staff needs to provide an ineligibility notification letter and identify the date of her last checks. She would not be eligible for CSFP until the next month because she would have received WIC checks during the month of her WIC ineligibility letter.

Q - If a 6 month (Some BF) mom withdraws from WIC do we need to terminate her in the computer?

A – Yes, it will be very important to terminate her in the computer so we get an accurate participation count. This also ensures that she will not show up on the dual participation report for CSFP. Use the voluntary withdrawal term code “M”.

Q – If a (Some BF) mom does not want to be on WIC anymore and wants CSFP, how soon can she get CSFP benefits? For example if she got WIC checks January 15, can she get CSFP at the beginning of February?

A – Yes, because CSFP goes by the month. It is not considered dual participation if participation is the next month.

Q – Is a 6 month (Some BF) mom that has the SNC package (no food checks) but receives nutrition education considered a participant? Will she be counted in the participation total on the 301 report since she is not getting checks?

A – Yes, the mom would be counted as participating. The mom’s record is linked to her baby’s record so if baby receives checks; mom will be counted as participating.

Q – Do women that are “fully” or “mostly” breastfeeding have to get this notification?

A – No. The “fully” and “mostly” BF women (BF1’s) may participate and receive checks for themselves until their baby reaches 12 months of age. This notification policy ONLY applies to “some breastfeeding” (BF2) women.

Q – What if a “fully” or “mostly” breastfeeding woman changes to “some breastfeeding” after the baby is 6 months old?

A – If a “fully” or “mostly” BF woman (BF1) changes her status to “some breastfeeding” (BF2) after her baby is 6 months of age – she would then need to be given the notification and receive 1 final month of checks.