



Procedure: Nutrition Education Contacts Through SNAP-Ed and EFNEP

Functional Area: II Nutrition Services/ Breastfeeding

Section: A 3b

Citation: 246.11 (d)(1)

Approval Date: 6/2015

Revised Date: 7/2013

Purpose

To provide guidance for working with program staff from the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed)** and **Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)** in the provision of nutrition education to WIC clients.

SNAP-Ed and EFNEP Defined

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension SNAP-Ed and EFNEP programs provide services to help families on a limited budget improve the quality of their diet. SNAP-Ed and EFNEP participants acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behavior changes necessary to improve their health. SNAP-Ed and EFNEP are free to all participants who meet income guidelines.

Participants are provided nutrition education from a specified curriculum that is delivered by SNAP-Ed and EFNEP staff. Participants may be taught individually or in small groups in the WIC clinic setting.

WIC, SNAP-ED, EFNEP Collaboration

WIC and SNAP-Ed/EFNEP recognize the importance of the services provided by the other programs and agrees that the integration of efforts increases the opportunities for each program to achieve their shared and respective goals.

These goals include:

- Decrease in the duplication of efforts for each program.
 - Shared nutrition and health messages developed, utilized and reinforced.
 - Sharing of training resources for staff as appropriate.
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Referral of Clients to SNAP-Ed

- WIC will promote SNAP-Ed and EFNEP to all interested clients via the use of promotional materials and verbal referrals.
- SNAP-Ed and EFNEP may recruit clients from the waiting room of the WIC clinic.
- The WIC CPA may refer clients to SNAP-Ed and EFNEP
- WIC clients have the right to refuse a referral to SNAP-Ed or EFNEP, or to ask that nutrition education be provided by a WIC CPA.

If a client presents with more complicated nutrition concerns that the SNAP-Ed or EFNEP staff member cannot address – the client should be referred back to the WIC CPA for nutrition education.

Clients Eligible to Receive SNAP-Ed and EFNEP Nutrition Education Contacts

While all WIC clients are eligible to participate in SNAP-Ed and EFNEP programming available in the WIC clinic; only specific categories of WIC clients may have those education contacts documented and used to fulfill the second nutrition education requirement.

- Postpartum Women
- Children age 1-4

Only low risk clients are eligible to have SNAP-Ed/EFNEP education counted as a second nutrition education visit.

Documentation of Nutrition Education Contacts

SNAP-Ed/EFNEP staff will provide documentation of clients who have participated in SNAP-Ed/EFNEP nutrition education to the WIC CPA.

- The WIC CPA maintains the responsibility to determine if the SNAP-Ed/EFNEP provided education is acceptable for an individual client's second nutrition education contact.
 - If appropriate, WIC CPA will document the nutrition education in the WIC computer system.
 - The nutrition education provided must be appropriate for the client's category and identified nutrition risk and nutritional needs.
 - The nutrition education provided should be documented only for the specific client for whom it is appropriate. For example, talking to a postpartum woman about weight loss would not be appropriate to document as second education for a low-risk child.
 - Nutrition education related to Infant Feeding or Prenatal Nutrition may not be used to meet the WIC requirement for a second nutrition education contact during the certification period.
 - SNAP-Ed/EFNEP staff should not directly enter a nutrition education contact in the WIC computer system.
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Memorandum of Understanding Between Programs

A Memorandum of Understanding (**MOU**) exists at the State Level, between the NE DHHS, Division of Public Health WIC Program and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension SNAP-Ed and EFNEP programs.

This MOU allows and outlines the integration efforts by WIC and SNAP-Ed/EFNEP.

If a local WIC agency or SNAP-Ed/EFNEP program provides additional services beyond the scope of the State MOU, the local agency is required to develop an individual agreement.

All MOU's developed at the local agency level must be reviewed and approved by the State WIC Office prior to implementation.

Confidentiality of Client Information

SNAP-Ed and EFNEP staffs are responsible for handling client information in a confidential manner and must follow the same confidentiality requirements as WIC staff.

Access to WIC Client Information

WIC clinic staff may provide the local SNAP-Ed/EFNEP staff the following information:

- Names and appointment dates/times of WIC clients that may be eligible for, or that participate in the SNAP-Ed/EFNEP.
- Heights and weights of individual WIC participants enrolled in the SNAP-Ed program.

SNAP-Ed/EFNEP staffs are not authorized to access or enter information in the WIC computer system.

Additional Information

For more information regarding nutrition education contacts provided by SNAP-Ed/EFNEP, please contact the State WIC Nutrition Coordinator.
