

Memo Name: Enrolling Children & Infants While in the Hospital
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Enrolling Children & Infants While in the Hospital

Children and infants who are patients in a hospital and apply for WIC can now be enrolled in the program and continue to receive nutrition education, breastfeeding support and referrals during their stay. They will not receive food or formula benefits while in the hospital.

Examples could include infants who are in NICU, children who are undergoing cancer treatment, transplant or are hospitalized for another major medical condition.

Physical presence at certification will not be required for these applicants. The authorized representative must be present at the certification appointment to provide proofs and sign the rights and responsibilities. The child/infant may be certified at a clinic closest to the hospital and transferred to a clinic in their hometown once they are released from the hospital and return home. A eWiC card will be provided if needed at the certification appointment.

Referral information from the hospital for anthropometric and bloodwork data will be used to certify the infant/child.

Once the child or infant is released from the hospital food and formula benefits may be issued to the WIC card.

This change will allow breastfeeding mothers whose infant is in the hospital to be linked with their infant in Journey and receive the appropriate breastfeeding food package. Please fill out the breastfeeding panel so it correctly expresses how much breastfeeding mom is doing. Journey should then provide the appropriate food packages for mom.

This change will be effective October 1, 2026.