

Memo Name: Certifying Applicants While in the Hospital
Memo Type: Procedure Clarification
Author: Marge Blannkenship, Clinic Services
Coordinator
Peggy Trouba, WIC Program Manager

Memo Number: 9-2022
Issue Date: 6/15/2022
Effective Date: 6/15/2022
End Date: Ongoing

Procedure Reference: Physical Presence
WIC Blood Work Requirements

Certifying Applicants While in the Hospital

This policy memo is to clarify that applicants for WIC ***cannot be certified*** while they are patients in a hospital. Certification of applicants is only allowed once they have left the hospital.

Examples of applicants who this applies to include:

- Infants in NICU
- Infants and children who have been in the hospital due to a serious medical condition such as cancer treatment, surgery or transplant.
- Women after the birth of an infant or other hospitalization

Those applicants who meet the exceptions outlined in the Physical Presence procedure and which are listed below, do not need to be physically present at the certification appointment.

Examples of situations that would meet the exception to the physical presence requirement due to a disability are:

- A medical condition that requires confinement to bed rest.
- A medical condition that necessitates the use of medical equipment that is not easily transportable.
- A serious illness that may be worsened by coming into the WIC clinic.

All persons with disabilities are not automatically exempt from the physical presence requirement. Only those disabilities that create a current barrier to the physical presence requirement may serve as a basis for an exception from the requirement.

Referral data may be used for anthropometric and blood values when a applicant is unable to be physically present and meets one of the listed exceptions. Referral data can be used if it was collected within 60 days of the certification and when it is from an approved source.

The state WIC office will be investigating other options for certifying applicants while in the hospital in the coming months. If you have comments or suggestions please send them to Marge Blankenship at marge.blankenship@nebraska.gov