WIC-48 Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

These questions and answers are pertaining to the WIC-48: Louisiana Medical Request for Formula and/or Food. If you have further questions, contact your Regional Nutritionist or the Exempt Formula Manager, Celia Bridgeforth, at Celia.Bridgeforth@la.gov.

What resources can I share with prescribing medical providers to assist them with completing the WIC-48 form correctly?

- Staff should refer providers to the Louisiana WIC Participant Qualifying Medical Conditions for Approved Exempt Formulas and Nutrition Risk Codes. This document is available on our Louisiana WIC website (link) and in the Louisiana WIC library.
- Staff should also refer providers to the Louisiana WIC Medical Providers Guide on the Louisiana WIC website (LouisianaWIC.org).

Is the list of formulas on the backside of the WIC-48 form a complete list of available formulas?

- No, while the list of formulas on the backside of the WIC-48 form is extensive, staff should refer providers to the Exhibit A formulary on the Louisiana WIC website (link) for the complete and current list of available WIC formulas. This list will be updated as formulary changes occur and will always provide the most current list of formulas.

Is milk protein allergy a qualifying condition/diagnosis?

- A diagnosis of milk protein allergy is not approved as a sole qualifying condition/diagnosis for prescribing the more expensive exempt formulas because standard soy formula is available without a prescription. However, if a provider indicates milk protein allergy and other underlying conditions (such as with diarrhea, severe allergies, GERD, etc.) in writing, the request may be approved.
- Milk protein allergy is not a qualifying condition/diagnosis for providing the more expensive exempt formulas because the WIC Program provides standard soy formula.

Is inadequate growth a qualifying condition/diagnosis?

- Yes, inadequate growth is a qualifying condition/diagnosis. However, this diagnosis is only valid for infants 6 months old or younger. Continuation of an exempt formula based on a diagnosis of inadequate growth will require reassessment by a medical provider with prescribing authority when the infant turns 6 months old. Please refer providers to page 2 of Louisiana WIC Participant Qualifying Medical Conditions for Approved Exempt Formulas and Nutrition Risk Codes on the Louisiana WIC website (link).
- **All other growth concerns are NOT qualifying conditions/diagnoses unless an underlying condition or diagnosis is identified.**

Are <u>dermatitis</u> or <u>hypersensitivity</u> qualifying conditions/diagnoses?

- Yes, these conditions fall under "severe allergies," which is a qualifying conditions. However, the allergies must be a confirmed diagnosis by the medical provider and not self-diagnosed or self-reported by the participant.

Is it acceptable to approve a WIC-48 if the only diagnosis is <u>diarrhea</u> or <u>constipation</u>?

- No, the conditions of diarrhea or constipation must be associated with an underlying condition, which must be included on the WIC-48. (See snapshot from WIC-48 form below).

> ****NOT ALLOWED:** Constipation, diarrhea, unconfirmed allergies, milk protein or soy allergy, managing body weight, lactose intolerance, intolerance, or growth concerns <u>UNLESS there is an underlying medical condition.</u>

If an infant's previously approved WIC-48 does not expire until after the infant turns 6 months old, is staff required to request a new WIC-48?

- No, a new WIC-48 is not required (see a snapshot of this section of the WIC-48 below). However, if the provider selects omit infant cereals and/or infant fruits and vegetables, a new WIC-48 is required before infant cereals and/or infant fruits and vegetables can be issued to the participant.
- The medical provider must check whether or not to include or omit infant cereal and fruit/veg. The medical provider is responsible for indicating when to start infant foods and not WIC staff. Therefore, WIC staff should not "assume" to start infant cereal and fruit/veg at 6 months when the medical provider did not check on the WIC-48.

Infants (6-12 Months Old)
Full amount of formula and infant foods will be given <u>UNLESS</u> checked below.
☐ Provide only formula past 6 months of age due to inability or delay in consuming solid foods.
Check WIC Supplemental Food to <u>OMIT</u> at 6 months of age
☐ Infant Cereal   ☐ Baby Food (Fruit and/or Vegetables)