

Nutrition/Health Volume
Certification Section

Guidelines for Assigning Dietary Risk Factors 401, 411, 425, 427 & 428 (2.04550)
ER# 2.04550

Authority 2015 7CFR 246.7(e)(2)(iii); WIC PM 98-9, Risk Revision 8 WC-05-22-P, WIC Policy Memorandum 98-9 Revision 10: WIC Nutrition Risk Criteria; Transmittal of Revised WIC Nutrition Risk Criteria November 25, 2013; **Transmittal of Revised, Not Allowed and Corrected Nutrition Risk Criteria May 21, 2015**

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POLICY: Initial nutrition assessment shall be conducted for all participants at every certification appointment at which eligibility was determined. Follow-up nutrition assessment shall be completed within 60 days for non-high-risk participants or 30 days for high-risk participants or sooner as needed. A nutrition assessment shall be conducted for all infants, children and breastfeeding (fully and mostly) women during every mid-certification. All risk factors shall be assigned as applicable. Risk Factors 401 through 428 shall be assigned to all participants who have been identified with one of the following nutrition-related risk conditions listed in this policy (*list is all-inclusive in procedure D*). Procedures for obtaining data, documentation and assigning risk factor must be followed.

PROCEDURES:

A. Obtaining Data

1. Initial nutrition assessment shall be completed at certification (appointment at which eligibility was determined):
 - a. an infant (initial certification) visit
 - b. initial certification of a child and at subsequent certifications
 - c. when an infant changes category to a child
 - d. every certification of a prenatal woman, postpartum (non-breastfeeding) woman, and initial certification of a breastfeeding woman.
2. Follow-up nutrition assessment shall be completed within 60 days for non-high-risk participants or 30 days for high-risk participants or sooner as needed.
3. Mid-certification nutrition assessment for infants, children and breastfeeding (fully and mostly breastfeeding) shall be accomplished by:
 - a. completing the initial nutrition assessment questions and follow-up nutrition questions or
 - b. completing the initial nutrition assessment questions and mid-certification nutrition questions or
 - c. completing the mid-certification nutrition assessment questions.

B. Documenting

1. Enter answers to the Nutrition Assessment questions in MOWINS.
2. Refer to the [Health and Nutrition Assessment Handbook \(HNAH\)](#) for additional information.

C. Assessing

1. Risk factor assignment shall be based upon assessment of responses to questions (Nutrition Assessments) in MOWINS.

D. Assigning Risk Factors

1. Dietary Risk Factors 411, 425 or 427 will be auto assigned by the system based upon responses selected in the initial nutrition assessment questions within the Nutrition Assessment tab. WIC Certifiers can only assign 411, 425, and 427.
2. The CPA/Nutritionist staff shall assign the following Risk Factors - refer to the [Risk Factor Detail Guide](#) for additional information on each of the following risk factors. Additional risk factors shall be assigned based upon information obtained during the nutrition assessment. Priority assignment for each risk factor is found in ER #2.03200.
 - a. Risk Factor 401 - Failure to Meet Dietary Guidelines for Americans (Women and Children 2 years of age and older). Women and children two years of age and older who meet the income, categorical, and residency eligibility requirements may be presumed to be at nutrition risk for *failure to meet Dietary Guidelines for Americans [Dietary Guidelines]*. Based on an individual's estimated energy needs, the *failure to meet Dietary Guidelines* risk criterion is defined as consuming fewer than the recommended number of servings from one or more of the basic food groups (grains, fruits, vegetables, milk products, and meat or beans).

Note: The *Failure to meet Dietary Guidelines for Americans* risk criterion can only be used when a complete nutrition assessment has been completed **and** no other risk criteria have been identified. This includes assessing for risk #425, *Inappropriate Nutrition Practices for Children* or risk #427, *Inappropriate Nutrition Practices for Women*.

This is a presumptive risk factor and can only be assigned by the CPA when a completed nutrition assessment (which includes counseling) has been completed and if no other risk factors are assigned at the initial certification or re-certification visit.

- b. Risk Factor 411 - Inappropriate Nutrition Practices for Infants. Routine use of feeding practices that may result in impaired nutrient status, disease, or health problems. These practices, with examples, are outlined in the USDA policy statement for risk factor 411. Refer to "Attachment to 411-Justification and References" for this criterion. **Refer to Infant/Child Vitamin D Supplementation Decision Tree and Infant/Child Fluoride Supplementation Decision Tree for additional guidance regarding Risk Factor assignment.**

- c. Risk Factor 425 - Inappropriate Nutrition Practices for Children. Routine use of feeding practices that may result in impaired nutrient status, disease, or health problems. These practices, with examples, are outlined in the USDA policy statement for risk factor 425. Refer to “Attachment to 425-Justification and References” for this criterion. Refer to Infant/Child Vitamin D Supplementation Decision Tree and Infant/Child Fluoride Supplementation Decision Tree for additional guidance regarding Risk Factor assignment.
- d. Risk Factor 427 - Inappropriate Nutrition Practices for Women. Routine nutrition practices that may result in impaired nutrient status, disease, or health problems. These practices, with examples, are outlined in the USDA policy statement for risk factor 427. Refer to “Attachment to 427-Justification and References” for this criterion. Refer to Women Supplementation Decision Tree for additional guidance regarding Risk Factor assignment.
- e. Risk Factor 428 - Dietary Risk Associated with Complementary Feeding Practices. (Infants 4 to 12 months and Children 12 through 23 months). An infant or child who has begun to or is expected to begin to 1) consume complementary foods and beverages, 2) eat independently, 3) be weaned from breast milk or infant formula, or 4) transition from a diet based on infant/toddler foods to one based on the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, is at risk of inappropriate complementary feeding. A complete nutrition assessment, including for risk #411, Inappropriate Nutrition Practices for Infants, or #425, Inappropriate Nutrition Practices for Children, must be completed prior to assigning this risk.

This is a presumptive/predisposing risk factor that is to be assigned at every certification and recertification by the CPA when a completed nutrition assessment (which includes counseling) has been completed.

*Notes:

- Risk Factor 428 may be assigned with 411 or 425.

- E. Providing Appropriate Counseling (See [Counseling Guides](#) for suggested counseling). Refer to the [Nutrition Training Manual](#) for more information. Additional education suggestions are located in the *Implications for WIC Nutrition Services* section of the USDA Regulations and Justification for each risk factor.
 - 1. Counseling and education shall be provided by the CPA.
 - 2. Document counseling contact in MOWINS.
- F. Providing Referrals
 - 1. Provide appropriate referral information and document in MOWINS.