

WIC CYSHCN Nutrition Consultant Network

Purpose:

The purpose of the WIC CYSHCN Nutrition Consultant Network is the development of a system within WIC projects to provide nutrition-related support for families of infant and children with birth defects or other special health care needs.

Roles and requirements (developed by Kathleen Hoag, WIC Training Coordinator, 10/18/07; updated by Sue Murvich, DPH Western Regional Office Nutrition Consultant, 10/26/09):

CPA (Level 1 Service)

Requires:

- Basic knowledge of nutrition to screen for nutritional risk factors, including use of the italicized questions in the ROSIE health tabs
- Basic knowledge of anthropometric measurements to identify risk
- Basic knowledge of health and developmental risk factors to identify infants and children with special health care needs
- Basic knowledge of referral systems for infants and children with special health care needs
- Basic knowledge of the nutrition content and indications for use of the special formulas and medical foods provided by WIC
- Ability to use general nutrition education materials
- Ability to provide appropriate food packages, including knowing the policy for medical documentation for the provision of special formulas and medical foods
- Ability to provide basic appropriate nutrition counseling for identified nutrition risks and/or facilitate RD referral for high risk nutrition care

WIC RD (Level 2 Service)

Additional requirements:

- Ability to conduct individualized nutrition assessment including taking and interpreting anthropometric measurements for infants and children with special health care needs
- Ability to provide nutrition education for problems such as anemia, chronic constipation, low-or high calorie diets, feeding problems, and growth monitoring
- More in depth knowledge of how to make appropriate referrals for infants and children with special health care needs
- More in-depth knowledge of the special formulas and medical foods provided by WIC, e.g., appropriateness of various products for various medical conditions, when an alternative product should be recommended instead etc.
- Ability to approve and tailor appropriate special infant formulas, pediatric formulas, specialized food packages through WIC.
- Ability to communicate with primary health care providers to obtain documentation required for special infant or pediatric formulas through WIC
- Accesses and has knowledge of content of professional resources on nutrition services and care for children and youth with special health care needs

WIC-CYSHCN Nutritionist (Level III)

Additional requirements:

- Ability to provide technical assistance and mentor staff in other WIC projects to develop their knowledge, skills and comfort level in serving infants and children with special health care needs.
- Ability to facilitate referrals to other services including CYSHCN Regional Centers, Healthy Start, primary care, tertiary care, Birth to Three, economic assistance, Health Check, lactation consultants and registered dietitians providing medical nutritional therapy
- Ability to communicate and collaborate with families, CYSHCN Regional Centers, health care providers or Birth to Three, developmental and behavioral therapists, public health departments, and other WIC projects about nutrition and feeding related concerns
- Ability to collaborate with family, health care providers and pharmacists to ensure documentation for Medicaid reimbursement of nutritional products.