

## **Georgia Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)**

### **Certification Period Guidelines**

- A. A Pregnant Woman certification period is the duration of their pregnancy and up to six (6) weeks postpartum. There is no extension granted beyond the six (6) week postpartum cutoff.
- B. A Breastfeeding Woman certification period ends in the month of her breastfed infant's first birthday or the cessation of breastfeeding before the infant's first birthdate.
  - 1. The certification period for the breastfeeding woman is up to one (1) year; however, she must be scheduled for a mid-assessment between five (5) and eleven (11) months of her delivery date. If she misses this appointment, the participant can receive two (2) months of vouchers until she has completed the mid-assessment. Mid-assessment appointment must be rescheduled during next voucher pickup.
  - 2. If the woman ceases to breastfeed and is more than six (6) months postpartum, she is categorically ineligible and must be terminated from the Georgia WIC Program immediately.
  - 3. If the woman ceases to breastfeed prior to six (6) months postpartum, the woman is still eligible to participate on the WIC program as a non-breastfeeding postpartum woman. However, her category and certification end date must each be changed to reflect her non-breastfeeding post-partum status.
  - 4. The woman must qualify for WIC based on the risk criteria for a postpartum, non-breastfeeding woman to continue receiving benefits. If no nutrition risks are evident, Risk Code 401 (Other Dietary Risk / Failure to Meet Dietary Guidelines) should be assigned.
  - 5. The woman's status, priority, and food package must be updated.
- C. A Postpartum, Non-Breastfeeding Woman certification period is up to six (6) months from the termination of their pregnancy.
- D. An Infants certification period is until their first birthday if certified at age six (6) months or younger. A nutrition assessment (mid-certification) by the CPA should be completed between five (5) and eleven (11) months of age. If the infant misses this appointment, the participant can receive up to three (3) months of vouchers until they have completed the mid-certification. A mid-certification appointment must be rescheduled during the next voucher pickup.
- E. If certified after reaching age six (6) months, the certification is for six (6) months.
- F. Children certification period is for one (1) year from the date of each certification. Eligibility may continue until they reach their fifth birthday. However, a half-certification must be performed between five (5) and eleven (11) months of each certification. If the child misses this appointment, the participant can receive up to three (3) months of vouchers until they have completed the half-certification. A half-certification appointment must be rescheduled during the next voucher pickup.