

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

### Certification Period Guidelines

- A. Pregnant Women: 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. Breastfeeding Women: ends in the month of her breastfed infant's first birthday or until cessation of breastfeeding.
  - a) The certification period for the breastfeeding woman is up to one (1) year; however, she must be scheduled for a mid-assessment between 5-7 months of her delivery date. If she misses this appointment, the participant can receive one month of vouchers until she has completed the mid-assessment.
  - b) 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
  - c) 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.
  - d) 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.
  - e) The woman's status, priority, and food package must be updated.
- C. Postpartum, Non-Breastfeeding Women: up to six (6) months from the termination of their pregnancy.
- D. Infants: 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 certified after reaching age six (6) months, the certification is for six (6) months.
- E. Children: 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 at 5-7 months between each certification.