

Food Package Tailoring**Policy No. NS-210.16**

Effective Date: October 1, 2016

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Policy

The Competent Professional Authority (CPA) must tailor the participant's food prescription to best meet their nutritional and/or medical needs, food preferences, cultural or religious beliefs, food intolerances, and household conditions. The maximum monthly allowance of all supplemental foods must be made available to the participant unless nutritionally or medically warranted (See [Maximum Monthly Allowance Policy NS- 210.01](#)).

The mother and infant food prescription must agree based on the feeding type assignments. Competent Professional Authorities (CPAs) are expected to individually tailor the amount of infant formula based on the assessed needs of the mother-infant breastfeeding dyad and provide the minimal amount of formula that meets but does not exceed the infant's nutritional needs.

Purpose

To ensure each participant receives the food benefits that best meets their nutritional and/or medical needs, food preferences, cultural or religious beliefs, food intolerances, and household conditions.

Procedures

- I. The Competent Professional Authority (CPA) will assess and modify the participants' food prescription based on their nutritional and/or medical needs, food preferences, cultural or religious beliefs, food intolerances, and household conditions.
- II. When tailoring a food prescription, CPAs must document the following information in the Notes and Alerts section of the "GA-WIC" system:
 - A. Reasoning for soy beverages and tofu food prescription assignment for children ages one to five years.
 - B. Reasoning that the maximum monthly allotment was not in the assigned food prescription.
- III. Tailor food prescription for participants receiving a Food Package III, for exempt infant formula or medical nutritionals, according to what has been indicated per medical documentation (See [Medical Documentation Policy NS- 210.12](#)).
 - A. Ensure children and women prescribed a Food Package III are only issued the formula quantity prescribed, up to the maximum allowed.
 - B. Order specialized medical formulas and/or WIC-eligible nutritionals through the State WIC Office (See [State Ordered Special Formula Policy NS 210.14](#)) when unavailable through local authorized WIC vendors.
 - C. When requested by the medical provider, children and women prescribed a Food Package III may receive the following substitutions (see [Food Package Handbook](#)):
 1. Children - \$9 cash value benefit equals 144 ounces of infant fruit and vegetables

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2. Women - \$11 cash value benefit equals 176 oz of infant fruit and vegetables
3. Women Exclusively Breastfeeding Multiples - \$16.50 cash value benefit equals 264 ounces of infant fruit and vegetables
4. Women and Children - 36 oz of breakfast cereal equals 32 oz of infant cereal
5. Women and Children - Whole milk if indicated

Authority

7 CFR 246.10

Georgia WIC Program Policy

Definitions/Supporting Information

Mother / Baby Breastfeeding Dyad – The process of thinking of a mother and her baby as a single unit or pair instead of as two separate individuals for the purposes of assigning food prescriptions and feeding methods. An infant and mothers food benefits are assigned based on the frequency a mother breastfeeds and the amount of supplemental formula needed for the infant.

Competent Professional Authority (CPA) – An individual on the local agency staff who is authorized to determine nutritional risk and prescribe supplemental foods. The following individuals may be authorized and trained to serve as a CPA: physicians, nutritionists (bachelor's or master's degree in Nutritional Sciences, Community Nutrition, Clinical Nutrition, Dietetics, Public Health Nutrition), registered dietitians, licensed dietitians, registered nurses, and physician assistants (certified by the National Committee on certification of Physicians Assistants or certified by the State medical certifying authority), or State or local medically trained health officials.

Full Nutrition Benefit – the minimum amount of reconstituted fluid ounces of liquid concentrate infant formula as specified in Table 1 of §246.10 (e)(9) for each food package category and infant feeding variation (eg., Food Package IA fully formula fed, IA-FF)

Nutrition Tailoring – a process of modifying food packages to better meet the supplemental nutrition needs of individual participants. The term “nutrition tailoring” is reserved solely for making food package accommodations, as authorized by WIC regulations in 7 CFR 246.10 (c), to accommodate the needs of an individual participant based on the CPA's assessment of the participant's nutritional risk condition, breastfeeding assessment, dietary needs, and personal food preferences. Nutrition tailoring entails making changes or substitutions to food types (e.g., dry beans vs. peanut butter) and physical food forms (e.g., dry milk vs. fluid milk). Nutrition

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tailoring may also involve eliminating foods due to allergy, medical or nutritional condition, or in situations where a participant cannot use or refuses the item.