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#15-077

**TO:** WIC Regional Directors  
WIC Local Agency Directors

**FROM:** Amanda Hovis, Director  
Nutrition Education/Clinic Services Unit  
Nutrition Services Section

**DATE:** June 22, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Gluten-free Food Packages and Baby Food Meats

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As mentioned in the WIC Directors call on Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> and email on June 2, 2015, there are a few changes to the approved foods and food packages.

### **Gluten-free Cereal Food Packages**

The State agency is discontinuing the gluten-free cereal food packages due to packaging confusion and low redemption of the 14 oz. Cream of Rice hot cereal and 12 oz. packages of Corn Chex and Rice Chex. The 18 oz. Corn and Rice Chex gluten-free cereals will be available for participants by issuing a standard or soy food package.

By October 1, 2015, participants on a gluten-free package should be transitioned to one of the food packages shown below.

- **New certifications:** Issue any standard food package
- **Current participants:**
  - At the next benefit issuance, void and replace the gluten-free package with the appropriate standard, soy or special dietary needs packages (see table below). If foods have been redeemed in the current month, void and replace the future months.
  - Provide the Shopping Guide that informs participants that the 18 oz. boxes of Corn Chex and Rice Chex are the approved sizes for the gluten-free cereal beginning the month they receive the new food package.

The State agency will monitor the issuance of the gluten-free cereal packages and contact the local agencies with a list of participants on these packages. Below is a list of the food packages and the transition food packages. By October 1, 2015, all participants should have been transitioned to one of the food packages shown below.

Food Packages			
Participants on these food packages		Transition to these food packages	
FP#	Package Title	FP#	Package Title
665	<2YR GLUTN FREE	645	<2YR STD
684	2+YR GLUTN FREE	680	2+YR STD
455	2+YR GLUTN FREE/SOY/TOFU	538	+2YR SOY/TOFU
554	SDN 1-4YR FORM/TOFU GLUTN FREE	460	SDN 1-4YR FORM/TOFU
667	PG/MBF GLUTN FREE	646	PG/MBF STD
668	PP/SBF GLUTN FREE	648	PP/SBF STD
669	EBF GLUTN FREE	649	EBF STD
670	PGM/MBF MULT GLUTN FREE	647	PGM/MBF MULT STD
671	EBF MULT GLUTN FREE	649	EBF STD

### **Baby Food Meats**

In October 1, 2015, organic baby food meats will be added to Texas approved foods and food package 450 will automatically transition to food package 686 for October benefits. That means that triple issuance starting in July (for benefits in hand) will issue food package 450 for August and September and food package 686 for October issuance.

- Due to the changes to the categories in the system, **WIC participants with food package 450 will not be able to purchase baby food meats during the last week of September.** Starting October 1, 2015, participants can buy conventional or organic baby meats.
- Approximately 7000 infant participants receive the exclusively breastfeeding food package 450. **Please inform participants receiving this food package that they will not be able to purchase baby food meats during the last week in September 2015 and advise them to buy their baby food early in the month.**

If you have any questions or need additional information, contact Paula Kanter, Clinic Nutrition Specialist, at (512) 341-4574 or [paula.kanter@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:paula.kanter@dshs.state.tx.us).