

<p style="text-align: center;">Nutrition Services Department of State Health Services</p>

Effective March 1, 2012

Policy No. CS:19.0

Midpoint Screening

Purpose

To ensure that the quality and accessibility of health care services for infants enrolled in WIC between birth and four months of age are not diminished.

Authority

7 CFR Part 246.7

Policy

Local agencies (LAs) shall ensure that infants enrolled during their first four months of age will receive health care services (well-child check or Texas Health Steps visit) or are assessed for growth, nutritional and immunization status at WIC between four through eight months of age (six through eight months is preferred). Food benefits shall not be denied to parents/guardians or caregivers who refuse to obtain these health care services or screening by WIC.

Procedure

- I. Infants certified before four months of age, shall be screened between four and eight months of age to determine if the infant has a healthcare provider.
- II. If the infant has a healthcare provider, staff shall inquire if the infant has had a well-child check or Texas Health Steps (THS) visit between four to eight months of age.
 - A. If the infant has had a well-child check or Texas Health Steps visit, the date of the checkup shall be entered into the Texas WIC Information Network (WIN) system.
 - B. If the infant has not had a well-child check or Texas Health Steps visit but has an appointment for the checkup between four to

Nutrition Services Department of State Health Services

Effective March 1, 2012

Policy No. CS:19.0

eight months of age, enter today's date into the Texas WIN system. The system will not accept a future date.

- III. If the infant does not have a healthcare provider or does not have an appointment for a well-child check or Texas Health Steps visit by seven months of age, WIC staff shall offer to provide a midpoint screening performed by a Certifying Authority or WIC Certification Specialist.
 - A. The screening shall include an assessment of weight, length, diet and immunization status. Weight and length shall be plotted on the appropriate growth chart and filed in the client's chart.
 - B. Inquire if parent/guardian/caregiver has any questions/concerns about the infant/family. If there are concerns, the counseling session shall be documented on the VENA Family Documentation tool (F13-06-12805) and filed in the client's chart to maintain continuity of care. Documentation on the VENA Family Documentation tool is not required when parent/guardian/caregiver does not have any questions/concerns.
 - C. Staff shall inform the parent/guardian/caregiver that the midpoint screening at the WIC clinic does not replace a well-check assessment performed by a physician or healthcare provider.
 - D. Referrals shall be made to other health care services for follow-up of any problems detected by WIC staff during the screening. Refer to Policy CS:21.0.
 - E. Staff shall enter the date that the midpoint screening was conducted at the WIC clinic in the Texas WIN system. Filing the Infant Midpoint Review (WIC-RO5) in the client's chart is optional. It is best practice to file the WIC-RO5 for a high risk or medically fragile infant.
- IV. LAs will be considered out of compliance if an infant has reached nine months of age or older and does not have a midpoint documented in the Texas WIN system.
- V. A parent/guardian/caregiver can refuse a midpoint screening.

<p style="text-align: center;">Nutrition Services Department of State Health Services</p>

Effective March 1, 2012

Policy No. CS:19.0

- A. If the midpoint screening is refused, the parent/guardian/caregiver shall read, sign and date the refusal statement on the WIC-R05 form.
- B. If the parent/guardian/caregiver refuses to read, sign and date the refusal statement, staff shall document the refusal and sign and date the WIC-R05 form.
- C. Staff shall enter the date of the midpoint refusal in the Texas WIN system and file the WIC-R05 form in the client's chart.