

Nutrient Deficiency Diseases

Definition/ cut-off value

Diagnosis of nutritional deficiencies or a disease caused by insufficient dietary intake of macro and micro nutrients. Diseases include, but are not limited to: Protein Energy Malnutrition, Scurvy, Rickets, Beri Beri, Hypocalcemia, Osteomalacia, Vitamin K Deficiency, Pellagra, Cheilosis, Menkes Disease, Xerophthalmia.

Presence of nutrient deficiency diseases diagnosed by a physician as self reported by applicant/participant/caregiver; or as reported or documented by a physician, or someone working under physician's orders.

Participant category and priority level

Category	Priority
Pregnant Women	I
Breastfeeding Women	I
Non-Breastfeeding Women	III
Infants	I
Children	III

Justification

The presence of macro- and micro-nutrient deficiencies indicates current nutrition health risks.

Persistent malnutrition may lead to elevated morbidity and mortality rates. Important functional disturbances may occur as a result of single or multiple nutrient deficiencies. Examples include impaired cognitive function, impaired function of the immune system, and impaired function of skeletal muscle. Participation in the WIC Program provides key nutrients and education to help restore nutrition status and promote full rehabilitation of those with an overt nutrient deficiency.

Clarifications/ Guidelines

Before assigning this risk code, be sure the specific nutritional deficiency of disease is documented on the health history form.

Self-reporting of a diagnosis by a medical professional should not be confused with self-diagnosis, where a person simply claims to have or to have had a medical condition without any reference to professional diagnosis. A self-reported medical diagnosis ("My doctor says that I have/my son or daughter has...") should prompt the CA to validate the presence of the condition by asking more pointed questions related to that diagnosis.

References

1. Institute of Medicine: WIC Nutrition Risk Criteria: A Scientific Assessment; 1996; pp. 159-66.
2. Worthington, Vonnie S., et al.: Nutrition Throughout the Life Cycle, 2nd edition; 1992; pp. 102-7.
3. Institute of Medicine: WIC Nutrition Risk Criteria: A Scientific Assessment; 1996; pp. 164-5.