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 in the “Mid-Point Completion Date” field on the Participant Page of the MIS.
   B. If the infant has not had a well-child check or Texas Health Steps
Texas WIC
Health and Human Services Commission

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visit but has an appointment for the checkup between four to eight months of age, enter today’s date in the “Mid-
Point Completion Date” on Participant Page

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. Staff shall complete the Midpoint Review Section of the MIS, including data for:
   1. weight, length, diet and immunization status. Weight and length shall be plotted on the appropriate growth chart. Enter Mid-point completion date.
   2. Inquire if parent/guardian/caregiver has any questions/concerns about the infant/family. If there are concerns, the counseling session shall be documented in the VENA Section of the MIS. Vena documentation is not required when parent/guardian/caregiver does not have any questions/concerns.
   3. 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.
B. 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.

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 MIS.

V. If a parent/guardian/caregiver refuses a midpoint screening enter “Mid-Point Refusal Date” on the Participant Page of the MIS.