



TEXAS WIC PROGRAM

Department of State Health Services
Food Issuance and Redemption Services Unit - MC 4554
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Redemptions of Gallon and Half-Gallon Milk

We have received several complaints that some grocers do not allow WIC clients to purchase half-gallon containers of milk. **WIC clients have their choice to select gallon or half-gallon containers of a grocer's declared least expensive brands (LEB).**

In 2007 the State did give vendors the option (prerogative) to sell a gallon vs. two half-gallons due to the impact of Cost Containment on their WIC milk sales. However, by late 2009 we were able to make changes to the WIC EBT system which created separate subcategories for gallons and half-gallons of milk, enabling WIC to compare pricing of gallons to gallons and half-gallons to half-gallons. In addition, we were 100% WIC EBT, no longer issuing/redeeming paper vouchers.

Effective October 1, 2010, WIC Policy WV:01.0 was revised, removing the option allowing grocers to limit their WIC milk purchases to only gallon containers. Texas WIC Policy WV:01.0.V.R. states a vendor may be sanctioned for refusing to sell an authorized item in an authorized size when the price falls within the Not to Exceed (NTE) price. Currently the NTE for a gallon of milk is \$5.50 and \$2.75 for a half-gallon. Therefore, if your LEB half-gallons of milk are priced at \$2.75 or less, you are required to allow participants to purchase those half-gallons of milk.

It's the WIC client's choice. If her card authorizes two gallons of whole milk, she can just purchase a half-gallon if that's all she wants. If she wants to redeem two half-gallons, she can. **Stores cannot require WIC clients to purchase only gallon containers of milk. The client has her choice of gallon containers and/or half-gallon containers.**

If you have any questions, please call the WIC State Office at 1-800-252-9629, extension 2298, to speak with a member of the Vendor Training Team.

