



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

October 16, 2013

VENDOR ALERT 2013 - 07

TO: ALL WIC VENDORS
SUBJECT: UPCOMING WIC FOOD INSTRUMENT CHANGES

Purpose The California Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program is announcing changes that will affect Dry Beans, Peas or Lentils and Peanut Butter, Infant Cereal and Infant Fruits and Vegetables Food Instruments (FIs). These changes will take effect on October 26, 2013.

Background On April 16, 2013, The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a memorandum directing the State WIC Programs to contain food costs. The following changes are being made to the WIC food options as cost containment measures.

Upcoming Food Instrument Changes **Dry Beans, Peas or Lentils and Peanut Butter Changes**
Food Instruments (FIs) issued on or after October 26, 2013 will specify either the Dry Beans, Peas or Lentils food option or the Peanut Butter option in most cases. Currently, FIs include both Dry Beans, Peas or Lentils and Peanut Butter. Effective October 26, 2013, participants will choose between Dry Beans, Peas or Lentils or Peanut Butter at the agency and their FIs will reflect this choice. The FI food item numbers for these items will also change and be available on VWIX.

Infant Cereal Changes

As of October 26, 2013, participants will no longer be allowed to buy multiple 8-ounce (oz) Infant Cereal containers. Instead, FIs will be changed to allow participants to purchase one 8-oz container and one 16-oz container of Infant Cereal per month.

Infant Fruits and Vegetables

Participants will no longer be allowed to purchase Infant Fruits and Vegetables sold in pouches with their Infant Fruits and Vegetables FIs. Infant Fruits and Vegetables FIs issued on or after October 26, 2013 will bear the following statement: *****POUCHES NOT ALLOWED*****.

Action For Vendors FIs issued prior to October 26, 2013 will not reflect the changes outlined above. Vendors should continue to honor FIs issued prior to October 26, 2013 for the foods listed on the face of the instrument. Vendors may continue to see FIs printed prior to October 26, 2013 in circulation until early January 2014. Please check the face of the FIs submitted by participants in order to determine what foods can be redeemed by participants during this transition period.



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Questions

If you have any questions, please contact your Vendor Consultant or call toll free (855) WIC-STOR or (855) 942-7867. You can also contact the WIC Vendor Management Branch by email: WICVENDORINFO@cdph.ca.gov.



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California WIC Program