



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

May 25, 2010



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
Governor

**VENDOR ALERT 2010-06**

TO: ALL WIC VENDORS  
SUBJECT: FRUIT AND VEGETABLE FOOD INSTRUMENT REDEMPTION CLARIFICATION

**Purpose** I am writing to clarify the Fruit and Vegetable Food Instrument (FI) redemption procedure for the California Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program.

**Background** The **Fruit and Vegetable** food category was introduced in the WIC Authorized Food List Shopping Guide (WAFL SG) effective October 1, 2009, and details of this new food category FI were provided to you in Vendor Alert 2009-15.

General questions and answers regarding redemption of Fruit and Vegetable FIs are also accessible on WIC's website [www.wicworks.ca.gov](http://www.wicworks.ca.gov) under *New Food Package FAQ's*.

**Vendor Implications** If the value of the fruits and vegetables participants select exceeds the printed Maximum Allowable Department Reimbursement (MADR) rate on the fruit and vegetable FI, **participants must be permitted to pay the difference with cash or EBT**. Since fruit and vegetable purchases would be allowable Food Stamp purchases, a WIC participant who is also a Food Stamp recipient could opt to use Food Stamp benefits for payment of the price difference. Cash or credit/debit cards are other forms of acceptable payment.

Pursuant to your Vendor Agreement, a vendor must comply with all authorization criteria, including accepting the additional payment from the participant for the purchase of fruits and vegetables exceeding the MADR for the fruit and vegetable FI.

Remember, these FIs may only be redeemed for up to the MADR rate. If the fruit and vegetable FI is submitted for reimbursement with an amount greater than the MADR rate (the additional amount paid by the participant), it will be rejected and returned unpaid.

**Questions** If you have any questions, please contact your WIC Vendor Consultant directly or call (916) 928-8705.

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