

**SECTION: CERTIFICATION**

**SUBJECT: Eligibility Requirement**

**ITEM: Determining Dietary Nutrition Need for All Categories**

---

## **Purpose**

To provide local agencies (LA) standardized procedures for determining dietary risk when certifying women, infants, and children; to define allowable dietary risk criteria, and to indicate the priority level for each dietary risk and participant category.

---

## **Policy**

Qualified staff shall assess whether a dietary nutrition need exists at each certification using approved dietary assessment tools including responses from the nutrition questionnaires found in WPM 210-09, responses from the Integrated Statewide Information System (ISIS), and self reported information.

## **Required Procedures**

- I. The LA shall review the dietary intake and practices of women, infants, and children using the California Department of Public Health nutrition questionnaire forms, found in WPM 210-09, or a State Agency approved nutrition questionnaire to assess nutrition need and to determine the dietary risks.
- II. Nutrition needs shall be determined by reviewing the dietary intake and feeding patterns of the participant as determined by responses to ISIS questions, and questions asked during individual counseling as part of the certification process.
- III. All women, infants (4 months of age or older), and children being certified require a dietary risk code. If a dietary need is not identified after performing a nutrition assessment described above, the following dietary codes of last resort (presumptive risk codes) shall be used:
  - A. D428 for infants (4 months or older) and children up to two years of age.
  - B. D401 for children 2 years or older and women.
- IV. A code of last resort (D401 or D428) may not be used for eligibility purposes if hemoglobin or hematocrit test results are not documented in the ISIS lab results record.
- V. The LA shall document identified dietary risks in ISIS on the Summary screen of the individual's record.

## Exception

Infants enrolled up to 4 months of age do not require a dietary risk code.

## Authority

7 CFR 246. 7 (e)

USDA Policy Memorandum 98-9, Revisions 1, 8, and 10: Nutrition Risk Criteria.  
Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment (VENA)

## Resources

---

[Job Aid 960-02: Dietary Nutrition Risk Criteria](#)

[Job Aid 960-03: Dietary Code Questions](#)

*Dietary Risk Criteria table begins on next page.*

## DIETARY RISK CRITERIA

**WIC 210-13**

The table below includes the dietary risk criteria to assess nutritional needs of all categories of WIC participants. The priority levels are indicated for each risk and category. The ISIS code number (in bold) and corresponding USDA risk code (in parenthesis) is provided in the far left column for reference.

ISIS CODE (USDA CODE)	INDICATOR OF NUTRITIONAL NEED DEFINITION	PRIORITIES				
		PREGNANT WOMEN	BREASTFEEDING WOMEN	NONBREAST-FEEDING WOMEN	INFANTS	CHILDREN
<b>D401</b> (401)	<b>Dietary Guidelines Not Met:</b> Women and children $\geq$ 2 years of age for whom a complete nutrition assessment has been performed and no other dietary risk(s) (including D402, D421, D423, D425, and D427) are identified. The hemoglobin/hematocrit must be current in the ISIS record in order to assign this risk.	IV	IV	VI		V  $\geq$ 2 years
<b>D402</b> (401, 427)	<b>Vegan or Highly Restrictive Diets:</b> <u>Women:</u> Consuming a diet very low in calories and/or essential nutrients; or impaired caloric intake or absorption of essential nutrients following bariatric surgery. <u>Infants and children:</u> Routinely feeding a diet very low in calories and/or essential nutrients.	IV	IV	VI	IV	V

**DIETARY RISK CRITERIA**

**WIC 210-13**

ISIS CODE (USDA CODE)	INDICATOR OF NUTRITIONAL NEED DEFINITION	PRIORITIES				
		PREGNANT WOMEN	BREASTFEEDING WOMEN	NONBREAST-FEEDING WOMEN	INFANTS	CHILDREN
D411 (411)	<p><b>Inappropriate Nutrition Practices for Infants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using a substitute for breast milk or for FDA approved iron-fortified formula as the primary nutrient source during the first year of life (e.g., feeding cow’s milk &lt; 1 year).</li> <li>• Using nursing bottles or cups improperly.</li> <li>• Offering complementary foods (any foods or beverages other than breast milk or formula) or other substances that are inappropriate in type or timing.</li> <li>• Using feeding practices that disregard the developmental needs or stage of the infant.</li> <li>• Feeding inappropriately diluted formula.</li> <li>• Limiting the frequency of nursing the exclusively breastfed infant</li> </ul>				IV	

**DIETARY RISK CRITERIA**

**WIC 210-13**

ISIS CODE (USDA CODE)	INDICATOR OF NUTRITIONAL NEED DEFINITION	PRIORITIES				
		PREGNANT WOMEN	BREASTFEEDING WOMEN	NONBREAST-FEEDING WOMEN	INFANTS	CHILDREN
D411 Cont'd	<p>when breast milk is the sole source of nutrients.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using inappropriate sanitation in preparation, handling, and storage of expressed breast milk or formula.</li> <li>Not providing dietary supplements recognized as essential by national public health policy when diet alone cannot meet nutrient requirements.</li> <li>Feeding foods that could be contaminated with harmful microorganisms.</li> <li>Feeding dietary supplements with potentially harmful consequences.</li> </ul>				IV	

## DIETARY RISK CRITERIA

WIC 210-13

ISIS CODE (USDA CODE)	INDICATOR OF NUTRITIONAL NEED DEFINITION	PRIORITIES				
		PREGNANT WOMEN	BREASTFEEDING WOMEN	NONBREAST-FEEDING WOMEN	INFANTS	CHILDREN
D421 (411, 425, 427)	<p><b>Pica:</b> Current or recent craving for or ingestion of nonfood items may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dirt</li> <li>• Clay</li> <li>• Ice</li> <li>• Starch (laundry or corn)</li> <li>• Cigarette butts</li> <li>• Ashes</li> <li>• Paint chips</li> <li>• Baking soda</li> </ul>	IV	IV	VI		V
D423 (427)	<p><b>Inappropriate of Excessive Intake of Dietary Supplements:</b> including single or multivitamins, minerals and herbal or botanical supplements/remedies/teas</p>	IV	IV	VI	IV	V
D425 (425)	<p><b>Inappropriate Nutrition Practices for Children:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feeding inappropriate beverages as the primary milk source.</li> <li>• Feeding any sugar containing</li> </ul>					V

## DIETARY RISK CRITERIA

WIC 210-13

ISIS CODE (USDA CODE)	INDICATOR OF NUTRITIONAL NEED DEFINITION	PRIORITIES				
		PREGNANT WOMEN	BREASTFEEDING WOMEN	NONBREAST-FEEDING WOMEN	INFANTS	CHILDREN
D425 Cont'd	<p>fluids.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using baby bottles, cups or pacifiers improperly.</li> <li>• Using feeding practices that disregard the developmental needs or stage of the child.</li> <li>• Not providing dietary supplements recognized as essential by national public health policy when diet alone cannot meet nutrient requirements.</li> <li>• Ingestion of nonfood items (pica).</li> <li>• Feeding foods that could be contaminated with harmful microorganisms.</li> <li>• Feeding dietary supplements with potentially harmful consequences.</li> </ul>					V

## DIETARY RISK CRITERIA

WIC 210-13

ISIS CODE (USDA CODE)	INDICATOR OF NUTRITIONAL NEED DEFINITION	PRIORITIES				
		PREGNANT WOMEN	BREASTFEEDING WOMEN	NONBREAST-FEEDING WOMEN	INFANTS	CHILDREN
D427 (427)	<p><b>Inappropriate Nutrition Practices for Women:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate vitamin/mineral supplementation recognized as essential by national public health policy.</li> <li>• Pregnant women ingesting foods that could be contaminated with pathogenic microorganisms.</li> </ul>	IV	IV	VI		
D428 (428)	<p><b>Dietary Risk Associated with Complementary Feeding Practices:</b> Infants and children for whom a complete nutrition assessment has been performed and no other risk(s) (including D402, D411, D421, D423, and D425) are identified. The hemoglobin/hematocrit test must be current in the ISIS record in order to assign this risk.</p>				IV  (4 to 12 months)	V  (12 to 23 months)