

SECTION: ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PRACTICES

SUBJECT: Local Agency Staff Requirements

ITEM: Registered Nurse (RN): Requirements and Responsibilities

Purpose

To define the role and responsibilities for Registered Nurse (RN) in the WIC program.

Policy

To work in the WIC Program a RN shall have a minimum of a bachelors degree in a health-related field. The degree may have been earned from institutions within or outside the United States.

Authority

7 CFR 246.2 and 7 CFR 246.6 (b) (2)

California Business and Professional Code Section 2725-2742

Requirements

- I. If a staff person eligible to become a RN does not pass the registration examination within the six months application period, but they remains eligible to test with the Board of Registered Nursing, local agencies may use their own discretion on whether the staff person continues employment at the RN pay scale until the examination is passed. However, the State agency recognizes a staff person that does not pass the examination within the first six months as a WIC Nutrition Assistant (WNA), and may only provide services within a WNA's scope of practice.
- II. Upon request, a local agency shall provide the State Agency with verification of an employee's qualifications. Verification for RNs must be in the form of the current California Board of Registered Nursing certification card.
- III. If an employee has previous experience at another local agency, the Local Agency shall request and retain copies of these forms and documents, from the previous agency or from the employee.

- IV. Local agencies shall retain the verification forms and documents for a minimum of three years following the termination of an employee.
- V. A RN shall complete the number of continuing education units required to maintain their professional certification.

Responsibilities

- I. RN staff may provide services to participants with level 1, 2, 3 indicators of nutrition need.
- II. The RN may provide nutrition intervention for WIC participants with level 4 indicators of nutrition need if the RN:
 - A. has completed a minimum of 40 hours of breastfeeding training and they are providing breastfeeding assistance;
 - B. is specifically authorized in the Individual Nutrition Education Plan (INEP) prepared by a RD, or other qualified professional staff; or
 - C. operates under an approved protocol prepared by a RD for a given condition.