

Standardize Units of Measure, Categories and Sub-categories

Discussion Leader: Jana Doyle

Overview:

Currently, there are five (5) WIC Authorities utilizing Smart WIC EBT. Each authority is given some discretion when defining food categories. Therefore, there are differences between units of measure (ounces versus cans). In moving towards interoperability these should be standardized which would best be implemented in next generations of clinic software. Discussion will include implications of changing units of measure and attendee input regarding standardization.

Notes:

1. Discussed standardizing Units of Measure (UOM) as much as possible being a long term goal and the factors that make it complex such as cost containment.
 - a. There was discussion about the national database to include items at a sub-category level.
2. Patty Davis advised the group they had been working on the national UPC database project for approximately 4 years and it's almost ready to pilot. An RFI for assistance will be issued soon.

Summary:

Standardizing UOMs is a good idea but due to the complexity of the project it is a long term goal that will require a lot of work with many impacts including cost containment. Each of the smart WIC Authorities has the flexibility under USDA guidelines to define their own units of measure which may challenge the goal of 100% standardization.