Memorandum

#20-015

TO: WIC Local Agency Directors

FROM: Amanda Hovis, Director
       Nutrition Education / Clinic Services Unit
       Texas WIC Program

DATE: February 10, 2020

SUBJECT: TXIN Infant Feeding Questions

The purpose of this memo is to provide clarification on what is intended by the required infant feeding questions on the Infant Participant Page and to provide language for staff who ask these questions. The data that is collected in these questions is used to track breastfeeding rates at the clinic, Local Agency and State level. It is important that we capture data accurately to ensure accurate reporting of breastfeeding initiation, duration and exclusivity rates. Please provide this information to all local agency staff and ensure they are asking the questions and entering the data using this guidance.

Specifically, we want to offer clarification on two existing questions:

1. Infant ever breastfeed or fed breastmilk?
   - This is how we collect initiation rates. We want to ask, “Did you ever breastfeed or give your baby breastmilk, even if only once?”

2. Infant had anything other than breastmilk?
   - This is how we will collect exclusivity. We want to ask, “Has your baby had anything other than breastmilk or formula? This includes water, juice, tea or cereal.”

Example Dialogue:

“I am going to ask you a few questions about how you are feeding your baby that are required by our system. Your answer to these questions won’t...”
impact what benefits you receive in any way – the nutritionist will work with
you to ensure you receive the foods that you and your baby need.

Did you ever breastfeed or give your baby breastmilk, even if only once?”

- Mom responds “Well, I tried once at the hospital, but it didn’t work,”
  - Infant ever breastfed or fed breastmilk = “Yes”
  - Date Breastfeeding Ended = entered as the day after the baby’s DOB.

- Mom responds “Yes, I’m still breastfeeding”
  - Infant ever breastfed or fed breastmilk = “Yes”
  - Date Breastfeeding Ended = remains blank

- Mom responds “No, I never tried breastfeeding, I’ve been feeding
  formula since the baby was born”
  - Infant ever breastfed or fed breastmilk = “No”

If mom is still breastfeeding:

“Has your baby had anything other than breastmilk or formula? This includes
water, juice, tea or cereal.”
  - Mom’s response and the date of giving the food/water/tea/juice
    is documented.

For questions, contact Andrea.Urquidez@hhsc.state.tx.us or 512-341-4521.

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