

Breastfeeding Mother of Infant at Nutritional Risk

Definition/ cut-off value

A breastfeeding woman whose breastfed infant has been determined to be at nutritional risk.

Participant category and priority level

Category

Priority

Breastfeeding Women

I, II, or IV*

* Must be the same priority as at-risk infant.

Justification

A breastfed infant is dependent on the mother's milk as the primary source of nutrition. Special attention should therefore be given to the health and nutritional status of the mother (3). Lactation requires an additional approximately 500 Kcal per day as increased protein, calcium, and other vitamins and minerals (4, 5). Inadequate maternal nutrition may result in decreased nutrient content of the milk (5).

Clarifications/ Guidelines

Before assigning this risk code, be sure and score the diet of the breastfeeding mother to determine if she would qualify for 422, Inadequate Diet. This practice may allow the mother to continue to receive benefits if she decides to discontinue breastfeeding and prevent the mother from having to apply for re-certification.

This risk code will be used only when no other risk condition is identified for the breastfeeding mother. You must identify what priority the infant is given in order to assign the same priority for the mother. This is the only risk condition in which the infant's and mother's priorities must match. If the mother is identified as having other risk conditions, do not assign this code and do not attempt to match the infant's and mother's priorities.

References

1. WIC Program Regulations: Section 246.7(e)(1)(I)
 2. Lawrence, RA: Breastfeeding: A Guide for the Medical Profession; 4th Edition; 1994.
 3. Worthinton-Roberts, BS and Williams, SR: Nutrition in Pregnancy and Lactation; 5th Edition; Times-Mirror/Mosby College Publishing; 1993; pp.347-401.
 4. Food and Nutrition Board: Recommended Dietary Allowances; 10th revision; National Academy of Sciences; National Research Council; 1989; pp. 34-35, 285 table.
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References

5. Institute of Medicine: Nutrition During Lactation; National Academy Press; 1991; pp. 103, 140, 214.