

Infant Up to 6 Months Old of WIC Mother**Definition/
cut-off value**

An infant < six months of age whose mother was a WIC Program participant during pregnancy.

**Participant
category and
priority level****Category**

Infants

Priority

II

Justification

Federal Regulations designate these conditions for WIC eligibility (1).

WIC participation during pregnancy is associated with improved pregnancy outcomes. An infant whose nutritional status has been adequately maintained through WIC services during gestation and early infancy may decline in nutritional status if without these services and return to a state of elevated risk for nutrition related health problems. Infants whose mother was at medical/nutritional risk during pregnancy, but did not receive those services, may also be thought of as a group at elevated risk for morbidity and mortality in the infant period (2, 3).

WIC participation in infancy is associated with lower infant mortality, decreased anemia for infants and improvements in growth (head circumference, height and weight). Infants on WIC are more likely to consume iron-fortified formula and cereal and less likely to consume cow's milk before one year, thus lowering the risk of developing iron deficiency anemia (2, 3).

**Clarification/
Guidelines**

This risk code may be may be used with other risk conditions, if identified.

References

1. Program Regulations: Section 246.7(e)(1)(ii).
 2. Journal of the American Dietetic Association: Nutrition Services: A Literature Review; April 1989; Supplement vol. 89(4):s-13, s-19.
 3. Ryan, A.S., Martinez, G.A. and Malec, D.J.: The Effect of the WIC Program on Nutrient Intakes of Infants; Medical Anthropology; 1984; vol. 9, no. 2.
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