
Policy Revisions: Infant Food Prescription - First Month of Life

For the infant’s first month of life (30 days) there are only three food prescriptions

Food Prescription	Infants Who Are	Breastfeeding Status
Fully Breastfeeding (BF)	Fully BF and no formula	Fully Breastfed
Partially BF <= Half Package (Pkg.)	Mostly BF and no more than 1 can of formula	Partially Breastfed <= Half Pkg
Fully Formula Fed (FF)	Fully formula fed Or BF some and needing 2 or more cans of formula	Fully Formula Fed or Partially Breastfed > Half Pkg

Note: If an adult BF participant hasn’t had prior BF experience, or is needing formula, it is recommended to keep them in PG Category through their eligibility period and provide the pregnancy food prescription (see [CH 18 Policy Revision: Certifying Participants After Delivery](#)).

Staff must:

- Support successful establishment of breastfeeding;
- Provide ongoing breastfeeding support to meet the needs of breastfeeding dyad;
- Not routinely issue formula to breastfeeding infants;
- Complete a Breastfeeding Review after delivery and when breastfeeding participants ask for formula. If formula is needed, the CPA:
 - Issues the minimum number of cans of formula to support the breastfeeding dyad;
 - Explains WIC doesn’t supply all the formula to meet an infant’s nutritional needs.
 - Tells caregivers they may need to buy formula each month, especially as the infant gets older.

Cascades suggests a food prescription based on the information entered in the Breastfeeding section of the Health Information screen.

- See [Volume 1, Chapter 15 – Breastfeeding](#) for guidance on how and when to complete and document a Breastfeeding Review.
- See [CH 18 Policy Revision: Certifying Participants After Delivery](#) regarding when to subsequently certify the pregnant participant after delivery.

PROCEDURE:

- A. For breastfeeding infants, the CPA:
1. Provides breastfeeding support.
 2. Completes a Breastfeeding Review after delivery and when a participant asks for formula.
 - a. If staff aren't available to complete the Breastfeeding Review and assign the food prescription, staff:
 - 1) Must not issue formula or increase the amount of formula.
 - 2) Schedule the participant for a Breastfeeding Review.
 - b. Enters the amount of breastfeeding and any formula offered in the Breastfeeding section of the participant's Health Information screen.
 - 1) Cascades will assign a suggested amount of formula based on the amount entered.
 - 2) Review the suggested amount and adjust as appropriate.
 - c. When the breastfeeding infant needs formula in the first month of life:
 - 1) Provide powder formula as the preferred physical form.
 - 2) Use the [961-1169 Breastfeeding Infant and Participant First Month of Life Tool](#), to ensure staff support the BF dyad and provide the appropriate food prescription after delivery.

Important! In the first 30 days of an infant's life it's not recommended to provide one can of formula. Please note, if:

- A Fully BF food prescription **OR** one can of formula is issued;
AND
- Any benefits are used;

You can only provide the one can of formula max within the first 30 days. This is a federal rule.

Cascades won't stop you from issuing more formula than one can. When assessing a BF dyad's needs after deliver, if you determine the dyad will likely need 4oz or more of formula a day within the first

30 days, you can assign a full formula pkg and tailor down to what the infant need (2 cans min). You can also advise mom not to purchase the formula unless needed.

- 3) Only issue one month of benefits.
 - 4) Schedule an appointment for the following month to see how breastfeeding is going.
- d. Explains that the amount of food the breastfeeding participant receives decreases when infant formula is provided by WIC.

Note: If a Fully BF participant with no formula comes back within 30 days of life, and any family benefits have been used, allow them to keep their current month's benefits. Only one can of formula can be issued to that infant.

Void future Fully Breastfeeding benefits and reissue benefits based on the new breastfeeding status.

B. For fully formula feeding infants, the CPA:

1. Documents the amount of formula offered in the Breastfeeding section of the participant's Health Information screen.
 - a. Cascades will suggest an amount of formula based on the amount entered.
 - b. Review the assigned amount and adjust as appropriate.
2. Issues the appropriate amount of formula.

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