

Subject: Eligibility Requirement**Item: Determining Nutritional Risk – Clinical/Health/Medical**

PURPOSE:

To provide local agencies (LA) standardized procedures for determining clinical nutritional risk(s) when certifying applicants.

POLICY:

- I. A Competent Professional Authority (CPA) must assess whether a clinical nutritional risk exists at each certification and recertification using CDPH/WIC-approved assessment tools and self-reported information.

PROCEDURE(S):

- I. To assess the presence of clinical risk(s), the CPA must:
 1. Collect health assessment information.
 - a. Ask the health assessment questions contained in the WIC Web Information System Exchange (WIC WISE).
 - b. As needed, ask other probing questions tailored to the applicant to obtain relevant health information.
 - c. Use participant-centered techniques throughout the assessment.
 2. Evaluate the health information obtained during the assessment, including:
 - a. Applicant's age.
 - b. Health history and current health status.
 - c. Social factors affecting health (e.g., family substance use).
 - d. Other health-related issues asked during the assessment.
 3. Review and assess WIC WISE generated clinical risk factor(s).
 4. Assign any other clinical risk factor(s) manually, if identified, and properly document a brief explanation, if applicable, in the Care Plan.
 5. Document sources of clinical/health information in the Care Plan if the source is something other than the medical referral form or the WIC WISE health assessment questions.
 - II. Self-reporting versus Self-Diagnosis
 - A. An applicant/participant can self-report medical conditions that were diagnosed by a health care provider (HCP).
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- B. Self-reporting of a diagnosis by a HCP must not be confused with self-diagnosis, where a person simply claims to have or to have had a medical condition without any reference to professional diagnosis.
- C. A self-reported medical diagnosis (“My doctor says that I have/my child has”) should prompt the CPA to validate the presence of the condition by asking more pointed questions related to that diagnosis to appropriately document in the Care Plan.

AUTHORITY:

[7 CFR §246.7 \(e\)](#)

USDA WIC Policy Memorandum 2006-05: VENA – A WIC Nutrition Assessment Policy

USDA WIC Policy Memorandum 2011-5. WIC Nutrition Risk Criteria.

Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment (VENA)

CROSS REFERENCE:

210-09 Complete Nutritional Risk Assessment