

Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 State Plan Instructions for Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment (VENA) and Nutrition Services Documentation

The following is a list of information related to VENA and nutrition risk that must be included or addressed in the FY 2010 WIC State Plan.

VENA

- FNS WIC Policy Memorandum 2006-5: Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment (VENA)-WIC Nutrition Assessment Policy was issued on March 15, 2006. The FY 2010 State Plan should include policy and procedural information, as outlined in the VENA Implementation Plan (submitted in FY 2007), or as amended, to ensure the implementation of VENA by October 1, 2009.

All WIC Policies were revised and submitted for review and approval in preparation of implementation of the SPIRT management information system before September 2008 implementation date. All nutrition assessment-related policies (VENA, Revision 8, and Revision 9) were submitted for review and approval as part of the overall WIC policy revisions for SPIRT implementation.

A new nutrition assessment process that does not include the use of the 24 Hour Diet Recall Assessment form is utilized. This assessment process guides the CPA in health outcome assessment versus deficiency assessment. This assessment process has been incorporated into the new management information system – SPIRT- in the VENA section for nutrition assessment. Questions are grouped based on the health goals for each participant type. Training has been conducted utilizing new nutrition assessment process. Additional training to maintain competencies is planned.

See attachment for VENA Questions/probing questions by participant type used in the nutrition assessment process.

Nutrition Services Documentation

- FNS WIC Policy Memorandum 2008-4: WIC Nutrition Services Documentation was issued on July 3, 2008. The FY 2008 State Plan should include all policy, procedural and information system changes, etc., as necessary to comply with the policy. FNS will review the State Plan to ensure that the documentation procedures/system includes the elements and the outcomes of nutrition services documentation as specified in the policy memorandum.

Arkansas implemented a new MIS – SPIRT- in September 2008. SPIRT supports the WIC value enhanced nutrition assessment process. The system includes nutrition and health issues assessment questions that are all VENA-compliant. The system will prompt to collect

demographic information such as hardships, smoking, TV viewing, etc. – all contributing to a comprehensive assessment and client-centered counseling. The system automatically assigns certain risk criteria and has other risk criteria not automatically assigned available for the CPA to manually select and assign. SPIRIT assesses anthropometric and hematological measurements entered and automatically plots on growth charts, prenatal weight gain chart, calculates BMI and assigns anthropometric and hematological risk criteria. SPIRIT prompts the CPA on appropriate nutrition education topics based on participant type. SPIRIT enables WIC staff to view past certification data thus facilitating follow-up and continuity of care. SPIRIT ensures critical and required documentation is completed by being organized and in an established order, minimizing duplication. It enables the CPA to view a complete picture of the participant including assessment information, nutrition risks and needs identified through the assessment, WIC category and priority level, food package prescription (and required documentation), nutrition education topics addressed, referrals made and any future plans in a form that is easy to retrieve and review. All High Risk participants are seen by the Registered Dietitian and an individual care plan developed for them. Secondary nutrition education provided through either group or individual contracts are documented in SPIRIT and easily retrieved for review.

All documentation for each participant is electronic – any documentation that is in paper form (e.g., prescriptions) is scanned into the individual participant's record.

A variety of reports are available for monitoring and quality improvement projects.