

The Vendor Register

WIC and EBT News

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The Spring EBT Rollout is Under Way!

Spring is here and the Ohio WIC EBT rollout is already in motion. The following counties implemented EBT on March 23, 2015: Belmont, Carroll, Coshocton, Fairfield, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Lawrence, Monroe, Muskingum, Perry, Pickaway, Ross, Scioto, and Tuscarawas.

State WIC is now making plans for the May phase of the WIC EBT rollout. Vendors in the

May rollout counties should expect a certified letter that includes the scheduled date for this mandatory training. It is important that store representatives who are responsible and knowledgeable about the store's cash register system attend the training. The EBT training is more technical in nature than WIC vendor trainings for contracting.

Once EBT has been rolled out, vendors will still be required to accept WIC coupons until such time that all WIC coupons have been phased out. State WIC anticipates all WIC coupons will be phased out by Nov. 30, 2015.

If you have questions about EBT equipment, EBT rollouts, or EBT preparation, please contact the State WIC office at 1-800-282-3435, or send an email to OhioWICEBT@odh.ohio.gov



EBT: Making Shopping Easier

Equipment Reimbursement Requirements

To be reimbursed for your standbeside purchase or your integrated system hardware/software upgrades, State WIC needs your signed Addendum B and a copy of your paid invoice. A copy of the equipment quote or order does not suffice. Please contact Margie Stahl at (614) 644-8006 or Margie.Stahl@odh.ohio.gov with questions.

Reminders

Be sure to check with your retail system provider to confirm that you have the necessary upgrades to your pin pads, cash register hardware and/or software that will enable you to transact smartcard Ohio WIC EBT.

All vendors must review the Ohio WIC UPC database prior to WIC EBT implementation in your county to ensure that your WIC-flagged items are accounted for! To request a copy of this database, email:

OhioWICUPC@odh.ohio.gov

Mapping Your Fresh Produce

By July 1, 2016, all fresh fruit and vegetables must be mapped to the appropriate PLUs. The generic PLU of 4469 is to be used only for mixed items, such as a bag containing both apples and oranges. All current UPCs for fresh produce will be removed from the database on July 1, 2016. State WIC does not and will not use retailer-assigned PLUs or add any more fresh produce UPCs to the authorized products list database. Mapping fresh produce to the appropriate PLU is a USDA requirement for WIC EBT. If you have questions about how to map your fresh produce, please contact your store's IT department or your cash register system provider/support.

Pharmacy-Only Formula List

With the implementation of EBT and the eventual elimination of WIC coupons, pharmacies will no longer be able to rely on the formula descriptions printed on WIC coupons to know what formulas to order for participants. Participants and pharmacies will have to rely on the Food Report (issued to the participants at their WIC clinic visit), as well as participants' benefit balance cash register receipts. The descriptions on both the Food Reports and receipts can be somewhat cryptic due to the limited space available for text. To assist pharmacies in deciphering what formulas were issued to participants, State WIC has developed a guide that clearly defines the exact formulas and types as well as their UPCs. This guide is for reference only as there are times that formula manufacturers change descriptions and/or UPCs without notifying the State WIC office. The guide is available on the Ohio Department of Health's website via this link: <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/ns/wicn/wicvendor/authfoods.aspx>

The form is titled Ohio WIC Nutrition Card Pharmacy Only Formula Food Report Description Clarification.

Adding UPCs to the Ohio WIC Database

Vendors transacting WIC EBT smartcards may encounter food and formula items that will not scan at the point of sale. If an item does not scan, it is not an authorized WIC item, not prescribed to the participant, exceeds the available benefit on the participant's card, or it may simply be missing from the current Authorized Products List (APL) file. If you believe an item is missing from the APL file, please report the item to State WIC as soon as possible. We will research the item to determine if it is, in fact, an authorized item and should be added. Please follow the instructions below to report this information:

⇒ Notify Lisa Rhyan of a possible addition, in one of two ways:

1. Email: OhioWICUPC@odh.ohio.gov
2. Phone: (614) 644-8257

⇒ Provide an image of the product label that clearly documents each of the following:

- UPC
- Product brand
- Product name
- Product size

⇒ Ways to provide above documentation:

1. Email Lisa Rhyan: OhioWICUPC@odh.ohio.gov

- Images must be 2MB or less
- You may submit more than one image
- Acceptable file types
 - *.pdf
 - *.tif
 - *.gif
 - *.jpg
 - *.png
 - *.bmp
- If submitting multiple items in one email, please include the UPC in the name of the file
- Include your contact information in case we have questions

or

2. Fax to Lisa Rhyan's attention: (614) 564-2470

- Include your contact information in case we have questions
- Images must be clear
- If submitting multiple items, please only place one item per page

We typically are able to complete our review within two days of receiving this information. If we determine that an item is authorized, we immediately add it to the APL file, which is then available for retailers to download that night for use in their stores the next day.