

Update Document – Food Package Changes

MAY 8, 2025 - VERSION 1

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Overview

This document provides information about food package system changes that will be implemented on June 7, 2025. All WINNIE users should review this document to understand the changes that will be made to the system and be aware of their impact when providing services to participants.

The following information should be used in conjunction with the guidance provided in the <u>Food Package Changes to Implement on June 9</u> document.

Implementation

On June 6-8, the state will make changes to the Information System and WIC Processor so that the food package changes detailed in this document can begin June 9.

NOTE! These changes should not impact the WINNIE login process.

All WINNIE environments (Clinic, Training, and Infoview) will be UNAVAILABLE from 8:00 PM on Friday, June 6 through 7:00 AM Monday, June 9.

Food Package Changes

On Monday, June 9, the following changes to milk food items, powdered contract formula, the mostly-breastfed (MBF) 0-1 month food package, and the 9-11 month infant Cash-Value Benefit (CVB) will be available in WINNIE.

Milk

Beginning June 9, participants with the standard (or default) *Fat-Free/Skim or 1% milk* or *Whole milk* food items can choose the type of milk (regular, soy beverage, lactose-free, powdered, goats milk, evaporated) they want to purchase at the store.

The description for the standard milk food items will be changed to include "(WIC-allowed)":

- Women and children 2-5 years old: Fat Free/Skim Milk or 1% (WIC-allowed).
- Children 1- <2 years old: Whole Milk (WIC-allowed).

Default Food Packages

On June 9, the updated standard WIC-allowed milk food items will display in the default food packages.

Default food packages will continue to have 1 lb. cheese and 1 quart yogurt.

Other Milk Food Items

 Tofu will continue to be its own food item and will have to be added to the food package to be purchased. • 2% milk, which can only be issued with Food Package III, will continue to be issued specifying the type of 2% milk the participant is allowed to purchase.

Inactive Food Items

The following non-standard milk food items will be inactive on October 31:

- Fat Free or 1% Lactose Free milk
- Whole Lactose Free milk
- Soy Beverage (unflavored)
- Fresh Goat Milk (gallons in qt containers)
- Nonfat powdered milk (gallons)

You will not be able to issue any of these non-standard milk food items on benefits with a **Printed First Date to Use (PFDTU) after October 31**. A message similar to the following will display when issuing benefits informing you that the food package has an expired food item:

Benefits cannot be issued for 11/01/2025-11/30/2025 because the <non-standard type of milk> (##) food item in the food prescription for <participant last, first name> is expired on 10/31/2025.

Current Food Packages

Standard Milk Food Items: The description for the standard milk food item will automatically update to include "WIC-allowed" in all current food packages and beginning June 9, families will be able to choose the type of milk they want to purchase at the store **without any changes having to be made to their food prescription.**

Non-standard Milk Food Items: Participants can continue to have non-standard milk food items that specify the type of milk in their food package until the food items become inactive on October 31. You do not have to update the food package AT THIS TIME.

NOTE! This **does not include evaporated milks** which are inactive on June 6. Anyone receiving evaporated milk **must have the standard milk food item** on their benefits beginning June 7. Please see the <u>Evaporated Milk Follow-up – ACTION ITEM</u> memo for more information.

If participants with non-standard milk food items in their current food package want the option to purchase any type of milk beginning June 9, you can create a default food package with an Effective Date on or after June 9th with the standard (default) milk food item.

Formula

Participants can choose the type of **powdered contract** formula they want to purchase at the store.

New Formula Item

A new WIC-allowed formula food item will be added in WINNIE to the Food Item dropdown when Contract is selected as the Formula Type: **WIC Contract Formula - Powdered**.

• The formula will display as **WIC-allowed Formula-Powdered** in the Aggregated Issuance modal, app, Account Balance, and Shopping List.

Other Formulas

- All powdered contract formulas specifying the type of formula will continue to be available for direct ship.
- Concentrate and Ready-to-Feed (RTF) contract formulas will continue to be individual food items, and the specific type of concentrate or RTF formula will have to be added to the food package to be purchased.

Current Food Packages

Infants can continue to have food items that specify the type of powdered contract formula in their food package. You do not have to update the infant's food package.

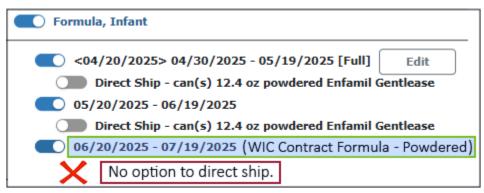
New Food Packages

Beginning June 9, when creating an initial food package for new infants or if the caregiver of an infant with current powdered contract formula benefits has concerns and would like to try another contract powdered formula, select the new **WIC Contract Formula - Powdered** that allows the family to choose the type of formula they want to purchase at the store.

Direct Shipping Contract Formula

Only powdered contract formula food items that specify the type of formula can be direct shipped. **The new WIC Contract Formula – Powdered food item cannot be direct shipped**.

 When issuing benefits, the WIC Contact Formula - Powdered food item will not display a Direct Ship toggle:



Mostly-Breastfed Infants 0-1 Months Old

The maximum allowed amount of formula for mostly-breastfed infants 0-1-month-old will be increased to 435 oz (4 cans of powdered formula). The default amount when added to the food package will continue to be 1 can (or equivalent to 104 oz).

Infant Cash-Value Benefit (CVB)

Beginning June 9, families can purchase fresh, **frozen**, or **canned fruits and vegetables** with the 9–11-month infant Cash-Value Benefit (CVB).

Default Food Packages

On June 9, the existing CVB food item (currently only issued to women and children), **Fruits and Vegetables – (WIC-ALLOWED)**, will replace the *Fruit and Vegetables – (FRESH ONLY)* food item in the default food package for 9-11-month-old infants.

Inactive Food Item

The current infant CVB food item, *Fruit and Vegetables – (FRESH ONLY)*, will be inactive on October 31.

You will not be able to issue this CVB food item on benefits with a **Printed First Date to Use (PFDTU) after October 31**. A message similar to the following will display when issuing benefits informing you that the food package has an expired food item:

Benefits cannot be issued for 11/01/2025-11/30/2025 because the Fruits and Vegetables - (FRESH ONLY) (107) food item in the food prescription for cparticipant last, first name is expired on 10/31/2025.

Current Food Packages

Infants can continue to have the *Fruits and Vegetables - (FRESH ONLY)* food item in their food package until it becomes inactive on October 31. **You do not have to update the food package AT THIS TIME.**

Beginning June 9, if families want the option to purchase frozen or canned fruits and vegetables, you can create a default food package which will have the **Fruits and Vegetables** – **(WIC-ALLOWED)** CVB food item that allows the family to buy fresh, frozen, or canned fruits and vegetables with the 9–11-month-old infant's CVB.

References – Complete Listing of Hyperlinks

<u>Food Package Changes Implemented June 9</u> (https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/localagency/fp/changesjune25.pdf)

<u>Evaporated Milk Follow-up – ACTION ITEM</u> (https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/winnie/evaporatedmilk.pdf)

Revisions

5/8/25 – V1: Original document.

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