



3 NUTRITION SERVICES

Effective: 12/1/95

3.11 Nutrition Risk Determination: Hematological Procedures

Revised: 10/1/09

POLICY: Hematocrit (Hct) or hemoglobin (Hgb) test results, within allowable time frames, are required for the certification of children, women, and infants first certified at 9 months of age or older. Hematological testing equipment must meet the specifications in policy 3.50. Standardized testing procedures must be used. See: *HemoCue Procedures* in ROSIE Help (ROSIE and Central Office Resources, Reference and Guidance, Nutrition and Health, Assessment Procedures – Anthro and Hgb). The test result must be recorded in ROSIE, and ROSIE automatically assigns the appropriate risk criteria.

PROCEDURE:

A. TESTING REQUIREMENTS

1. Infants and Children
 - a) Infants certified at 9 through 12 months of age: A Hct or Hgb test is required. If referral data is used, it must be <60 days old.
 - b) Children: A Hct or Hgb test is required at every certification except for those 27 months of age or more if the test result was normal at the last certification. If referral data is used, it must be <60 days old. When the last test was normal, the next test must be performed within 12 months (regardless of whether or not referral data <60 days old was used).
2. Pregnant Women: A Hct or Hgb test is required. If referral data is used, the test must have been done during pregnancy.
3. Postpartum breastfeeding and nonbreastfeeding postpartum women:
 - a) Certification at <4 weeks postpartum: Do not test. Schedule a test at 4 weeks to <90 days postpartum. If the value is low, update risk factors and priority level and provide appropriate counseling and referrals. If the woman is late for the testing appointment and comes in at ≥ 90 days, test and provide counseling and referrals, if needed. (Note: Federal WIC Regulations state a test must be performed by <90 days postpartum, but do not allow sanctions if the woman does not come in for testing.)
 - b) Certification at 4 weeks to <6 months postpartum: Test. If referral data from an earlier test is used, the test must have been done at/after 4 weeks postpartum and be <60 days old.



- c) Certification of breastfeeding women at 6 or more months postpartum: Test. If referral data is used, it must be <60 days old.

B. TESTING REQUIREMENT EXCEPTIONS

1. There are two exceptions for the requirement for blood tests specified earlier in these procedures:
 - a) An applicant's religious beliefs will not allow blood drawing. Document this in the ROSIE Blood Tab. Do not use anemia as a risk factor.
 - b) An applicant has a medical condition in which the procedure could cause harm to the applicant (e.g., hemophilia or a serious skin disease). Include the physician's documentation of the medical condition in the participant's file and document this in the ROSIE Blood Tab. If the condition is considered treatable, a new statement is required for each certification. If possible, obtain referral data. Do not use an anemia risk factor if no Hct or Hgb result is available.
2. If on a case-by-case basis it is determined that the health and safety of WIC clinic personnel is severely at risk (e.g., a person with a contagious disease is hostile and physically abusive), consider other means to obtain the bloodwork results, e.g., refer the applicant to another location for the blood test (as long as there is no cost).

C. COORDINATION WITH BLOOD LEAD TESTING

Since WIC requires blood tests for anemia, and since in Wisconsin WIC Projects do most of the blood tests, many WIC agencies collaborate with health departments and HMOs to also perform blood lead testing (as allowed in Policy 11.1 . Blood lead testing recommendations are:

1. Test between 9-15 months of age and again at 21-27 months of age. If a child is on a different recertification schedule, it is acceptable to test at, e.g., 16 and 28 months of age. The goal is 2 tests by 3 years of age.
2. When a child reaches their third birthday:
 - a) If the child has had 1 test, do a second.
 - b) If the child has had 2 tests, do not do any more.
 - c) If the child has had 0 tests, do one and do not schedule any more.