



Provider's Food Program

November 2016 Newsletter

INFANT MEALS

Infant Meals are an area that causes many providers to be deducted meals because they are so different from the requirements for older children. This month we are focusing on the most common problems in the hope that this will help you get paid for more meals!

Common Problems

Some of the most common problems with Infant Meal claims are:

❖ **SOLID FOODS** – Solid foods may start to be served when the infant is between 4 to 7 months, but it is not normally required.

PROBLEM: Once you start claiming Solid food on your menus, USDA requires that you **MUST** continue with Solid food to be reimbursed. Many times, when you are just starting to try serving Solid foods, you may switch between Formula only and adding Solid food for a few weeks before making the permanent change. If you claim for Solid food one day and then return to formula only afterwards, USDA requires the formula only meals to be disallowed from the date of the **FIRST** Solid food claimed.

SOLUTION: Do **NOT** begin to claim for Solid food until you have switched completely from Formula only.

❖ **INFANT FOODS** – Foods served to each infant must be written on the claim.

PROBLEM: If you have two infants in the same age bracket that are being fed the exact same meal, some providers will only write the food served with the first infant and then not write anything for the second. USDA requires that the second child's meal be disallowed if there is nothing written specifically for each infant.

SOLUTION: Write down the meal components for **BOTH** infants using the back of the page for the 2nd infant.

❖ **PARENT SUPPLIED FORMULA** – Parents may wish to supply a different type or brand of formula than what you provide. In such a case the parent is allowed to supply the formula.

PROBLEM: Some providers think that they are not able to claim for this meal since the provider is not the one supplying the formula.

SOLUTION: USDA allows you to claim for the meal even if the formula is being provided by the parent. Be sure to write down the infant on the claim form and include the formula as the component served.

REMINDER

When serving juice to Infants, it **MUST** be served in an infant cup ("Sippy-cup"), **NOT** in a bottle.

CACFP INFANT MEAL PATTERN

The following infant meal pattern is supplied by ESE to help you in determining the proper components to submit for reimbursement:

CACFP INFANT MEAL PATTERN

BREAKFAST

Birth – 3 Months	4-7 Months	8-11 Months
4-6 fl.oz. formula ¹ or breast milk ^{2,3}	4-8 fl.oz. formula ¹ or breast milk ^{2,3}	6-8 fl.oz. formula ¹ or breast milk ^{2,3}
	0-3 Tbsp. infant cereal ^{1,4}	2-4 Tbsp. infant cereal ¹ and 1-4 Tbsp. fruit and/or vegetable

SNACK

Birth – 3 Months	4-7 Months	8-11 Months
4-6 fl.oz. formula ¹ or breast milk ^{2,3}	4-6 fl.oz. formula ¹ or breast milk ^{2,3}	2-4 fl.oz. formula ¹ or breast milk ^{2,3} , or fruit juice ⁵
		0-½ bread ^{4,6} or 0-2 crackers ^{4,6}

LUNCH and SUPPER

Birth – 3 Months	4-7 Months	8-11 Months
4-6 fl.oz. formula ¹ or breast milk ^{2,3}	4-8 fl.oz. formula ¹ or breast milk ^{2,3}	6-8 fl.oz. formula ¹ or breast milk ^{2,3} and
	0-3 Tbsp. fruit and/or vegetable ⁴	1-4 Tbsp. fruit and/or vegetable and
	0-3 Tbsp. infant cereal ^{1,4}	2-4 Tbsp. infant cereal ¹ and/or
		1-4 Tbsp. meat, fish, poultry, egg yolk, cooked dry beans or peas; or
		½-2 oz. cheese; or 1-4 oz. cottage cheese, cheese food, or cheese spread

KEY:

- 1-Infant formula and dry infant cereal shall be iron-fortified.
- 2-It is recommended that breast milk be served in place of formula from birth through 11 months.
- 3-For some breastfed infants who regularly consume less than the minimum amount of breast milk per feeding, a serving of less than the minimum amount of breast milk may be offered, with additional breast milk offered if the infant is still hungry.
- 4-A serving of this component shall be offered when developmentally ready.
- 5-Fruit juice shall be full-strength and served in a cup.
- 6-Bread and bread alternatives shall be made from whole-grain or enriched meal or flour.

ESE July 2015

NOTE: Using the Minute Menu Web Kids program makes claiming for Infants much easier!

Call us today to find out how to switch to Web Kids for **FREE!**

360 Merrimack Street, Suite 44 • Lawrence, MA 01843 • (781)-939-9292

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.