

## **VENA (Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment)**

- I. VENA– The process of a quality WIC nutrition assessment includes the comprehensive collection of relevant and accurate nutrition information that is necessary to deliver meaningful nutrition services to WIC participants.
  - a. When conducting a nutrition assessment, the CPA must:
    - i. Open a new nutrition interview record at the certification appointment. The first assessment question that needs to be asked is: Who is your health care provider? The data field entry for the answer to this question must be a health care provider name or the name of a health/community clinic. If the participant doesn't know the names of either a health care provider or clinic, then a check must be entered in the box entitled, No Health Care Provider. If this box is checked, ask for this information at the next certification appointment.
    - ii. Identify and assign all NRFs for which an applicant qualifies.
    - iii. Provide and document nutrition intervention/education and refer to other health-related services.
  - b. Following a nutrition assessment based on NRFs assigned, the participant will be placed at the highest possible priority. Nutrition services should be based upon the participant's highest priority needs and their interests/requests.
  - c. Intervention and education are not required on all identified nutrition risk factors in one clinic visit.
  - d. At non-certification appointments following the certification appointment, nutrition assessments and risk assignments are not required. However, if the CPAs open a new nutrition interview record, at these subsequent appointments, and identify risks, then a new risk record needs to be created and all identified risks selected. Nutrition intervention/education needs to be documented and appropriate referrals provided based on these newly identified nutrition risks.
  - e. The process of a quality WIC nutrition assessment includes:
    - i. Collecting accurate and essential information.
    - ii. Applying communication skills to foster openness and rapport with the participant.
    - iii. Organizing, synthesizing and evaluating the collected information.

- iv. Drawing appropriate conclusions and relationships from the information collected.
  - v. Identifying solutions, prioritizing the issues discovered, developing a plan of care.
  - vi. Documenting the information and conclusions concisely and accurately.
  - vii. Referring to other needed resources.
  - viii. Closing the loop – providing follow-up as necessary.
- f. Refer to the VENA Training Module, the USDA VENA Regulation and the Nutrition Risk Manual below for details about conducting a nutrition assessment.