
245.24

Communicating With Primary Health Care Providers

Introduction Dialogue and communication with a participant's primary health care provider is essential for continuity of care. Contract agencies are particularly encouraged to share nutrition care plans for Priority I and III participants.

Sharing information Send pertinent nutrition information to the participant's primary health care provider whenever appropriate. Focus on information that keeps the provider informed about the participant's nutritional status and the participant's response to education and counseling activities.

Note: The participant must sign the release on the form, Referral From the WIC Program, before any information can be shared with primary health care providers. See Policy 245.20A for a copy of this form.

Requesting information Request pertinent health and nutrition information from the participant's primary health care provider when that information is needed to provide individualized and appropriate nutrition services. CPAs are encouraged to document requests for information in the nutrition care plan and update the plan when the information is received. Examples of information that might be requested follow:

- Bloodwork
- Medical diagnosis and treatment plan
- Preparation and/or feeding instructions for participants receiving formula

Note: The participant must sign an **Authorization for Release of Information** form before the primary health care provider can provide this information. See Policy 245.24A for a copy of this form.

Follow-up on information requests Each agency should develop a plan to follow-up on requests for information.

Example: Print a second copy of the request form and put it in a "tickler file." The tickler files could be organized by WIC staff members, clinics or counties depending on what best meets the agency's needs.

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