

KANSAS WIC INFORMATION MEMORANDUM
KANSAS-WIC-I-2014-08

TO: Parent and Sub-Agencies

FROM: Dave Thomason
Nutrition & WIC Services Director

DATE: May

RE: Food Package-Formula-Similac Sensitive for Fussiness and Gas, Similac for Spit-Up, Similac Total Comfort
Risk Factors and Electronic Cigarettes
Training – Problem with WIC New Employee Training Courses in KS-TRAIN
KWIC Focus: Keeping emails current in KWIC
WIC Advisory Committee: Minutes (4/23/14) & Call for Agenda Items for 7/23/2014 Meeting
Vendor Training/Monitoring
Store Brands Milk, Egg and Cheese

Food Package-Formula-Similac Sensitive for Fussiness and Gas, Similac for Spit-Up, Similac Total Comfort

Can WIC staff accept special issuance authorizations for infants and children for Similac Sensitive for Fussiness and Gas, Similac for Spit-Up, or Similac Total Comfort with diagnoses for other than the check box for ICD-9-CM codes? Yes, on a case by case basis. Please call a SA RD for discussion. Form found at:

http://www.kansaswic.org/manual/forms/KANSAS_WIC_Special_Authorization_for_Infants_and_Children.pdf

ACTION REQUIRED:

Inform appropriate staff. SA staff to call – Patrice Thomsen 785-291-1189; Julie Ornelas 785-296-0094; Martha Hagen 785-291-3361

Risk Factors and Electronic Cigarettes

We've received questions if tobacco-related risk factors should be assigned for use of e-cigarettes. Here is the latest guidance from FNS for WIC:

At this time, use of e-cigarettes is **not** a risk criterion, nor would the use in the home be considered environmental tobacco smoke exposure. The FDA is still in the process of evaluating their safety. Therefore, it would be impossible to assess for risk if there is no reliable information about how much or what brands are safe or unsafe. Even though there is not a specific risk criterion that can be assigned for this behavior, it is certainly an issue that can and should be addressed through nutrition education. It would be prudent to inform the participant of the FDA information from this link (last updated 4/24/2014).

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/PublicHealthFocus/ucm172906.htm>

“E-cigarettes have not been fully studied, so consumers currently don’t know:

- the potential risks of e-cigarettes when used as intended,
- how much nicotine or other potentially harmful chemicals are being inhaled during use, or
- whether there are any benefits associated with using these products.

Additionally, it is not known whether e-cigarettes may lead young people to try other tobacco products, including conventional cigarettes, which are known to cause disease and lead to premature death.”

Here is an additional link with more information from the FDA:

<http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm225210.htm>

ACTION REQUIRED: Inform all staff that issue risk factors.

Training – Problem with WIC New Employee Training Courses in KS-TRAIN

Some time ago, the Kansas WIC Program added several USDA WIC courses to our new employee training and made arrangements for them to be accessed through KS-TRAIN. There have been considerable problems with these courses, especially recently. We apologize for the difficulty new employees have encountered. In trying to find a solution, we’ve been notified by the KS-TRAIN Administrator that those courses were built in problematic software (called Skillsoft) and now are not launching correctly or verifying complete when a user completes the course. (The particular problem began May 5.) It is a course software problem and nothing to do with TRAIN or the server where the courses are housed.

The KS-TRAIN administrator is trying to work with USDA to pull them down until USDA can get them fixed. We are not recommending them to any of our learners right now.

Modules include:

- WIC 101
- WIC Breastfeeding Basics
- Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment
- Feeding Infants: Nourishing Attitudes and Techniques
- Communicating with Participants
- Counseling Skills
- Reaching Participants through WIC

ACTION REQUIRED: WIC Coordinators (or others) that are supervising training of new staff should continue to have new employees complete the other training modules listed on the Training Completion Sheets. Note on the Completion Sheet that the TRAIN modules are unavailable. During this interim period, new staff can get KWIC Security clearance without completing those modules. Watch for notification that the modules are available and have new employees complete the required modules at that time.

KWIC Focus: Keeping emails current in KWIC

This month's issue of *KWIC Focus* is included at the end of this memo and is also available on the web site at http://www.kansaswic.org/local_agencies/kwic_focus_newsletter.html

ACTION REQUIRED: Have all staff read *KWIC Focus*.

WIC Advisory Committee: Minutes (4/23/13) & Call for Agenda Items for 7/23/2014 Meeting

- You can find minutes of the April 23, 2014 WIC Advisory Committee meeting on the WIC Advisory Committee page of the website.
http://www.kansaswic.org/local_agencies/WIC_advisory_comm.html
- The next WIC Advisory Committee conference call is Wednesday, July 23, 2014 at 10:00 AM. **Please submit agenda items to your WAC representative or Patrice Thomsen by July 1, 2014.** You can find your representative name and contact information on the [WIC Advisory Committee](#) page of the Kansas WIC website. As a reminder, questions about policy implementation should be directed to your agency's assigned state staff member.

ACTION REQUIRED: Read minutes as desired. Submit agenda items by July 1, 2014.

Vendor Training/Monitoring

The following counties are contract renewal and require a face-to-face training and a store monitoring visit to 100% of their vendors: Atchison, Barber, Brown, Chase, Chautauqua, Cherokee, Clay, Cloud, Coffey, Comanche, Cowley, Doniphan, Edwards, Elk, Ellsworth, Harper, Harvey, Jackson, Jefferson, Jewell, Kingman, Kiowa, Labette, Lincoln, Lyon, Marshall, McPherson, Mitchell, Montgomery, Nemaha, Ottawa, Pottawatomie, Pratt, Reno, Republic, Riley, Saline, Sumner, Washington, and Wichita.

The face-to-face training may be provided in the store at the time of the monitoring visit, or offered at a minimum of two different dates and times in a central location. The results of the training and monitoring visits are to be entered into KWIC and paper copies sent to the state by August 1, 2014.

Counties not listed are required to monitor a minimum of 10% of the vendors in their county(ies) these too must be entered into KWIC and the paperwork sent to the State. For those counties, the State Agency will provide the Annual Training and a quiz that must be sent back to the State.

The State is shipping a training newsletter and manual to every store, however only those counties not in contract renewal need to ensure the vendors return their quizzes to the State.

As always, a power point presentation and the Kansas WIC Vendor Manual are on-line to ensure that all federally required elements are reviewed and available to stores as they become WIC authorized or hire new employees. Training materials can be found at: [Kansas Department of Health and Environment: Nutrition and WIC Services](#).

ACTION REQUIRED: Vendor managers must review their vendors in the Training/Monitoring Tab in KWIC to ensure they have completed and entered their training and/or monitoring visits by the August 1, 2014 deadline.

Least Expensive or Store Brand for Milk, Egg and Cheese

The WIC food policy relating to “least expensive or store brand” for milk, eggs and cheese has caused some difficulty in training with staff, clients, and vendors. The basic idea of the policy is to save money on milk, eggs, and cheese. The wording of the policy was also designed to address the differences between stores of various sizes and the brands of products that they carry. For large stores like WalMart, the least expensive product is usually a store brand like “Great Value”. For smaller stores, the least expensive product may happen to be a nationally or regionally branded product such as “Hiland” or “Roberts” for milk and “Kraft” for cheese.

To simplify the instructions between staff and clients, please instruct clients to look for either the least expensive product or the store brand. If clients choose the least expensive brand it is almost always the store brand. Alternatively, by picking the store brand, clients will almost always be choosing the least expensive brand. Most clients shop at the same stores and for the same products. Once they choose a store and learn their products checkout problems go away after one or two shopping visits.

Stores will be instructed to place the “WIC Approved Food” labels by the products that are the least expensive brands of milk eggs and cheese. On rare occasions, the price of a store brand product may be higher than another product, such as during a sale. Since this occurs only rarely, the policy does not require a store to modify the WIC allowed products during the sale. In other words, if Hiland milk goes on sale at WalMart, WIC clients will be able to purchase either the Great Value brand or Hiland brand milk.

Please contact either, Valerie (vmerrow@kdheks.gov) or Brad Iams (biam@kdheks.gov) if you still have questions.

If you have any questions regarding this memo, please contact the state staff member assigned to your agency.

Items ↓: KWIC Focus



Question:

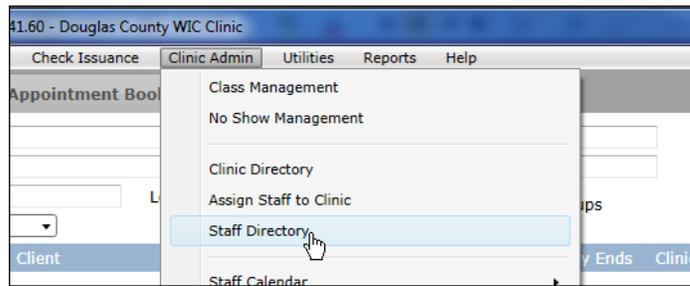
How do I make sure all my staff receives their own emailed copy of the P & I memos?

Answer

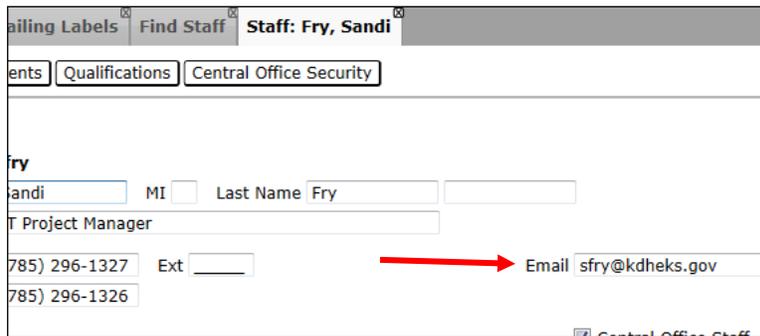
Refer to policy:

http://www.kansaswic.org/manual/ADM_07_03_00_KWIC_Maintaining_Clinic_Info.pdf

The KWIC Administrator can click on Staff Directory, under Clinic Admin.



This will open the Staff Directory window and by selecting Find, you will see all the WIC staff assigned to your clinic. By either double clicking the staff person's name or highlighting the name and clicking Retrieve, the record opens. On the left side of the screen, you will see an Email field. The email address entered in that field will receive all the emails signed up for on the Qualifications tab.





The Qualifications tab is where you can select what types of emails you want your staff to receive from the State Agency. Let's say your new staff member is a Breastfeeding Peer Counselor. You might want to move over Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, I & P Memo, KWIC Helpdesk and WIC Newsletter. She would receive all emails that were sent to any one of those four groups.

Staff Qualifications Mailing Labels Find Staff Staff: Fry, Sandi

Detail Clinic Assignments **Qualifications** Central Office Security

Available Items

Qualification Description
BF Newsletter
BFPC Supervisor
Breastfeeding Coordinator
Breastfeeding Peer Counselor
Civil Rights Coordinator
I & P Memos
KWIC Administrator
KWIC Helpdesk
Local Vendor Contact
Nibbles & Bites
Nutrition Service Coordinator
Registered Dietitian
Registered Nurse
Vendor Newsletter
WIC Coordinator
WIC Newsletter

Navigation buttons: > < >> <<

Please remember to move KWIC Helpdesk over for everyone. As staff members come and go from your clinic please remember to keep email addresses updated and also what qualifications are moved over. **This is the only list the State Agency and the KWIC helpdesk uses to send out mass emails to WIC staff.**

