

Nutrition/Health Volume  
Certification Section

Risk Factor 602 (Breastfeeding Complications or Potential Complications  
(Women)) (2.04710)

ER# 2.04710

Authority 2015 7CFR 246.7(e)(1)(iii); WIC Policy Memorandum 98-9 Nutrition Risk  
Criteria WC-29-P; Transmittal of Revised, Not Allowed and Corrected Nutrition  
Risk Criteria May 21, 2015

Issued 06/07

Revised 10/16

POLICY: Risk factor 602 (Breastfeeding Complications or Potential Complications  
(Women)) shall be assigned to a breastfeeding woman with any of the following  
complications or potential complications for breastfeeding. This risk factor shall  
be assigned to a currently breastfeeding prenatal with any of the following  
complications or potential complications for breastfeeding.

Complications (or Potential Complications)	
Severe breast engorgement	Cracked, bleeding or severely sore nipples
Recurrent plugged ducts	Age $\geq$ 40years
Mastitis (fever or flu-like symptoms with localized breast tenderness)	Failure of milk to come in by 4 days postpartum
Flat or inverted nipples	Tandem nursing (breastfeeding two siblings who are not twins)

PROCEDURES:

A. Obtaining Data

1. Obtain verification of complication from visual observation or
2. Obtain verification of complication from healthcare provider or lactation consultant either verbally or in written format (i.e., a note on a physicians prescription pad, referral form, medical record, other reliable record or verbal confirmation from physician or someone working under physician's order ) or
3. Obtain verification of complication as self reported by applicant/participant/caregiver.

B. Documenting

1. Document the complication in the General Notes or Breastfeeding Notes in MOWINS.
2. Scan any written documentation provided by the healthcare provider or lactation consultant in the participant's file in MOWINS.

C. Assessing Risk Factor

1. The CPA shall assess all breastfeeding women for breastfeeding complications or

potential complications at certification, recertification and any follow-up appointments.

- a. An assessment may include observing the mother's breasts and/or nipples, tissue damage, the infant's position and latch at the breast and milk transfer.

D. Assigning Risk Factor

1. The certifying staff shall assign risk factor 602 to a breastfeeding woman or pregnant woman currently breastfeeding an infant or child when any of the listed complications or potential complications for breastfeeding exists.
2. Refer to the [Risk Factor Detail Guide](#) for additional information.
3. Priority assignment for the risk factor is found in ER #2.03200.

E. Providing Appropriate Counseling (See [Counseling Guides](#)). Refer to the [Nutrition Training Manual](#) for more information. Additional education suggestions are located in the USDA Regulations and Justification for the risk factor.

1. Counseling and education shall be provided by the CPA.
2. Document counseling contact in MOWINS.

F. Providing Referrals

1. Provide appropriate referral information which may include peer counselor, lactation consultant, or healthcare provider and document in MOWINS.