

Nutrition/Health Volume
Certification Section

RF 141 Low Birth Weight and Very Low Birth Weight (2.05400)

ER# 2.05400

Authority 2010 7CFR 246.7(e)(2)(i); WIC Policy Memorandum 98-9 Revision 7; MPSF:WC-04-21-P

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POLICY: Risk factor 141 [Low Birth Weight (LBW) \leq (less than or equal to) 5 lbs. 8 oz. or 2500 grams] or Very Low Birth Weight (VLBW) [\leq 3 lbs. 5 oz. or 1500 grams] shall be assigned to an infant or child less than 24 months of age who meets the criteria listed in this policy. Procedures for obtaining data, documentation and assigning risk factors must be followed.

PROCEDURES:

A. **Obtaining Data**

For an infant or child less than 24 months of age, who has not been determined to be premature

1. Obtain the weight and length/height with adherence to the procedures in the Health and Nutrition Assessment Handbook ([HNAH](#)).

B. **Documenting and Plotting**

1. Record the infant's/child's weight and length/height measurements in MOWINS. MOWINS will automatically plot on the appropriate growth chart.
2. For an infant/child born prematurely (\leq 37 weeks gestation), and has reached 40 weeks gestation, MOWINS will automatically plot on premature growth charts.

*Note: All low birth weight (LBW) and very low birth weight (VLBW) infants and children (up to 2 years of age) who have reached the equivalent age of 40 weeks gestation, shall be assessed for growth by the CPA manually using the 2000 CDC Birth to 36 Months Growth Charts, adjusting for gestational age. MOWINS will plot using chronological age.

C. **Assessing and Assigning Risk Factors**

1. MOWINS will automatically assign Risk Factor 141 when the criteria are met. Refer to [Risk Factor Detail Guide](#). The certifying staff may also assign Risk Factor 141.
2. MOWINS will flag an infant or child as high risk if the infant's/child's birth weight was \leq 3 lbs. 5 oz. Complete a SOAP Note in MOWINS. Refer to [ER# 2.02900](#).

D. **Providing Appropriate Counseling** (see [Counseling Guides](#) for suggested counseling). Refer to the [Nutrition Training Manual](#) for more information.

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

E. **Providing Referrals.**

1. Provide appropriate referral information and document in MOWINS.

*Note: Infants born prematurely (\leq 37 weeks gestation) who have not reached the equivalent age of 40 weeks gestation may be assessed for growth using a growth chart for low birth weight (LBW) or very low birth weight (VLBW) infants (e.g., Infant Health and Development Program [IHDP]) consistent with the protocols of the local medical community in which the WIC clinic operates. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) does not recommend the use of the 2000 CDC Growth Charts for preterm infants who have not reached the equivalent age of 40 weeks gestation.

*From USDA WIC Policy Memorandum 98-9, Revision 7 Nutrition Risk Criteria (MPSF:WC-04-21-P), Guidelines for Growth Charts and Gestational Age Adjustment for Low Birth Weight and Very Low Birth Weight Infants.