

Nutrition/Health Volume
Certification Section

RF 142 Prematurity (2.05500)

ER# 2.05500

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 142 (Prematurity) shall be assigned to an infant or child less than 24 months of age who was born at ≤ 37 weeks gestation. Procedures for obtaining data, documentation and assigning risk factors must be followed.

PROCEDURES:

A. **Obtaining Data**

1. Ask mom or guardian whether the infant or child (< 24 months of age) was born premature and obtain the number of weeks gestation.

B. **Documenting and Plotting**

1. Record weeks gestation in the Health Information tab for infants and children less than 24 months old.
2. MOWINS will automatically plot on the appropriate premature growth chart for an infant or child born prematurely at ≤ 37 weeks gestation).

C. **Assessing**

1. If Mom was not on WIC while pregnant with this infant or child, determine whether the child (< 24 months of age) was born at ≤ 37 weeks gestation.
2. Refer to the [Risk Factor Detail Guide](#).

D. **Assigning Risk Factor**

1. Risk Factor 142 will be automatically assigned by MOWINS for an infant or child < 24 months of age when weeks gestation on the Health Information tab is ≤ 37 weeks.
 - a. If the infant or child less than 24 months old was born at 37 weeks and 1 day gestation, risk factor 142 will not be assigned.
2. Risk Factor 142 shall be manually assigned by the certifying staff if mom was not on WIC while pregnant with this infant or child, and they were born at ≤ 37 weeks.
3. MOWINS will flag an infant or child as high risk. Complete a SOAP Note (in MOWINS). Refer to [ER# 2.02900](#).

E. **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.

F. Providing Referrals

1. Provide appropriate referral information and document in MOWINS.

*Note: Gestational age is estimated during the prenatal period using maternal dates of expected delivery based on last menstrual period, and/or fetal characteristics (uterine fundal height, presence of quickening and fetal heart tones, and ultrasound evaluation). These estimates may be inaccurate, due to an irregular menstrual period, inability of mother to recall dates, early trimester bleeding, or lack of use of early ultrasound (1,5). Postnatally, the New Ballard Score or the Dubowitz score is used to assess gestational age by scoring the infant against physical and neurological signs (1,6,7). Ideally, more than one method is used to determine gestational age.

*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.