

	MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM	ISSUED	REVISED	CHAPTER	SECTION
	CHILD CARE CENTERS POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL	6/2011	3/2015	7	7.5A
CHAPTER Chapter 7. Meal Pattern		SUBJECT Food Substitutions for Disability and Medical or Special Dietary Needs			

To claim a meal for reimbursement, the child must be served the required minimum components. Exceptions to this requirement occur under the following circumstances:

## 1. Disability

A person with a disability is any person who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such impairment, or is regarded as having such impairment. **Child care centers participating in the CACFP are required to make substitutions or modifications to the meal pattern for a participant with a disability that restricts his/her diet.**

Substitutions must be made on a case by case basis and only when supported by a written statement signed by a licensed physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner which explains the need for substitutions and includes recommended alternate foods. The medical statement (medical food substitution record) must be kept on file, handled confidentially, and must describe:

- The participant's disability and an explanation of why the disability restricts the participant's diet;
- The major life activity affected by the disability; and
- The food or foods to be omitted from the participant's diet and;
- The appropriate food substitutions.

Reimbursement for meals served with documented food substitutions claimed at the same reimbursement rate as meals which meet the meal pattern. The center may not charge for the substituted food item – substitutions that exceed program reimbursement are at the center's expense.

Generally, a participant with a food allergy or intolerance is not considered a participant with a disability and institutions are not required to make substitutions. However, when in the physician's assessment food allergies may result in severe, life-threatening reactions (anaphylactic reactions), the participant then meets the definition of a participant with a disability.

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## 2. Special Dietary Need

If an institution is serving a child with special dietary needs that are not a disability, the parent/guardian may request substitutions by submitting an accurately completed "Medical Food Substitution Record" (CACFP-227 is recommended) signed by a recognized medical authority (licensed physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner), listing the food(s) to be omitted and appropriate substitutions.

Substitutions *may* be made on a case by case basis, at the discretion of the center, for a participant who is unable to consume a **food item** because of non-disability medical or other special dietary need.

For information on substitutions for fluid milk, refer to Section 7.5 B.

References: 7CFR226.20(h) and (i)  
FNS Instruction 783-2 Accommodating Children with Special Dietary Needs  
CACFP 10-2013 policy memo (April 26, 2013) – describes disabilities that affect “major life activities” and “major bodily function”.