



## WASHINGTON WIC PROGRAM

### Washington State WIC Manual Notice of Revision



Date: 8/1/2025

Notice Number: 2025-06

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volume 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Volume 2
Chapter: 10 – Hematology	
Section: See Table of Revisions	
Policy/Recommendation/Description/Procedure:	
Type of Action/Change: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supersedes <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Delete	
If you have questions about this revision or wish additional copies, call or write:  Department of Health Washington WIC Program P.O. Box 47886 Olympia WA 98504-7886 Call: 1-800-841-1410	

#### Explanation of Revisions:

- This chapter was updated to align with Washington State Senate Bill 5244 which exempts WIC from medical assistant laws.
- This chapter goes into effect August 1, 2025.

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Washington State WIC Nutrition Program doesn't discriminate.

For persons with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats.  
To submit a request, please call 1-800-841-1410 (TDD/TTY 1-800-833-6388).



## Table of Revisions

Policy/Page	Revision	Comments
Throughout chapter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Removed</b> references to requiring a Medical Assistant license to perform the Hemocue test via heel-stick, toe-stick, or finger-stick and oversight from a qualified health care provider as per Washington State Senate Bill 5244.</li> <li><b>Added</b> language to include breast or chest feeding.</li> </ul>	
Definitions and References p. 1 - 2	<b>Added</b> definition and reference section.	
Obtain a Medical Test Site License p. 3	<p><b>Required Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Changed</b> name from The WIC Clinic as a Medical Test Site.</li> <li><b>Revised</b> content but intent unchanged.</li> </ul> <p><b>Procedure</b></p> <p>Shares steps to obtain a Medical Test Site license.</p>	
Only Trained Staff May Perform Invasive Blood Testing p. 4	<p><b>Required Guidance</b></p> <p><b>Revised</b> to state:</p> <p>Local agency staff who perform bloodwork must complete the following training before performing blood testing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DOH STATE WIC Hematology Curriculum in the learning center.</li> <li>DOH STATE WIC Bloodborne Pathogens Training in the learning center (annual requirement).</li> <li>Review of the local agency exposure control plan.</li> <li>Initial Anthro/lab measurement observations.</li> </ol> <p><b>Procedure</b></p> <p>Supports required guidance requirements.</p>	
Test Blood Hemoglobin According to Timing Schedule p. 5 - 6	<p><b>Required Guidance</b></p> <p><b>Added</b> table with blood testing timeframes.</p>	
Assess Iron Status of Infants Certified from Birth through Five Months of Age	<b>Removed Policy</b>	Requirements are included in the required guidance above.

Volume 1, Chapter 10 – Hematology  
Table of Revisions

Policy/Page	Revision	Comments
Summary of Washington WIC and USDA/FNS Requirements and CDC Recommendations for Blood Testing	<b>Removed Table</b>	Requirements are included in the required guidance above.
Assess Iron Status of Transfer Clients	<b>Removed Recommendation</b>	
Provide Exceptions p. 7	<b>Required Guidance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changed name from Exceptions to Performing the Blood Test at a WIC Certification.</li> <li>• Staff must grant exceptions to hematology testing for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Medical condition</li> <li>○ Religious belief</li> <li>○ Not required by policy (0 – 6 month old infant)</li> <li>○ Refusal</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <b>Procedure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document the exception reason on the Anthro/Lab screen.</li> <li>• Issue 3 months of food benefits (as appropriate) to the participant.</li> </ul>	
Defer Testing p. 8	<b>Required Guidance</b> <p>Staff may defer hemoglobin testing for up to 90 days of the date of certification for the following participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants with at least one nutritional risk factor present at certification.</li> <li>• Presumptively eligible participants with at least one qualifying risk factor.</li> </ul> <b>Procedure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document the deferral reason on the Anthro/Lab screen.</li> <li>• Document efforts to obtain bloodwork values in a Family Alert.</li> <li>• Issue 3 months of food benefits to participants who have a deferral reason.</li> </ul>	
Implement Controls to Reduce Staff Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens	<b>Required Guidance</b> <p>The local agency must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Comply with Washington state and OSHA standards.</li> </ol>	

Volume 1, Chapter 10 – Hematology  
Table of Revisions

Policy/Page	Revision	Comments
p. 9 - 10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Write an exposure control plan to eliminate or minimize exposure to bloodborne pathogens and review the plan annually.</li> <li>3. Use controls to eliminate or minimize occupational exposure to blood.</li> <li>4. Provide personal protective equipment to staff performing invasive blood testing.</li> <li>5. Document exposures.</li> </ol> <p>The CPA must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use "Universal Precautions" when performing invasive blood testing to prevent the spread of infectious diseases from bloodborne pathogens.</li> <li>2. Dispose of lancets and microcuvettes in sharps containers.</li> <li>3. Dispose of waste, such as gauze, gloves, and bandages that are not soaked with blood in regular trash.</li> <li>4. Dispose of infectious and blood-soaked waste in a biohazard bag.</li> </ol> <p><b>Procedure</b> Supports required guidance.</p>	
<p>Perform Tests or Obtain Values from Referral Sources</p> <p>p. 11 - 19</p>	<p><b>Required Guidance</b> <b>Renamed</b> from Perform the Hemoglobin Test using the HemoCue Analyzer. WIC staff must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Perform the invasive or non-invasive test according to manufacturer instructions and Washington State laws, or</li> <li>2. Attempt to obtain hematocrit or hemoglobin values from referral sources within 90 days of the certification except for infants who require a test between 9 and 12 months old.</li> <li>3. Document attempts to get blood values in a family alert.</li> </ol> <p><b>Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff may follow up on blood values at 60 days to align with the timeline for obtaining height and weight measurements.</li> </ul>	

Volume 1, Chapter 10 – Hematology  
Table of Revisions

Policy/Page	Revision	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WIC staff must complete training in the use of invasive and non-invasive equipment prior to testing participants.</li> </ul> <b>Procedure</b> <b>Updated</b> to align with required guidance.	
Document Test Results Performed or Obtained from Referral Sources p. 14	<b>New Required Guidance</b> Staff must document the test results, or the reason for exception or deferral on the Anthro/Lab screen in Cascades. <b>Procedure</b> Supports required guidance.	
Determine Nutrition Risk and High Risk Status Based on Hemoglobin or Hematocrit Values, Tailor Nutrition Education, and Refer Participants to Health Care Providers p. 15 - 16	<b>Required Guidance</b> <b>Renamed</b> from Determine Nutrition Risk and High Risk Status Using the Hemoglobin or Hematocrit Values. <b>Procedure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Revised B:</b> Confirms the test completion date is within the participant's current category.</li> <li><b>Revised C:</b> Verifies to make sure Cascades assigns the correct risk. Cascades automatically calculates and assigns risk based on blood test values taken within the past 90 days.</li> </ul>	
Assess Iron for Transfer Participants p. 17	<b>Best Practice</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Added B:</b> Schedule a follow up for the next month to assess the participant's iron status and determine nutrition education and referral needs.</li> <li><b>Added B, 1 and 2:</b> Request the measurements and blood test values from the previous clinic. If there is no blood test value staff can perform the blood test or obtain the value from the health care provider.</li> <li><b>Added C:</b> Assess the participant's iron status at the subsequent certification according to policies and procedures in this chapter.</li> <li><b>Added C:</b> Issue benefits as needed. Staff don't need to limit benefit issuance for transfer participants with missing blood test values.</li> </ul>	

Volume 1, Chapter 10 – Hematology  
Table of Revisions

Policy/Page	Revision	Comments
High Hemoglobin or Hematocrit Assessment and Intervention p. 18	<b>Procedure</b> <b>Removed</b> this sentence from B, Note: The Washington WIC Program does not adjust for smoking or living at high altitude.	Cascades adjusts for smoking based on the number entered in the Cigarettes per Day field on the adult Health Information screen. See the Hematology Tables tab of the <a href="#">Staff Tool: Nutrition Risk Factors</a> .
Maintain Hematological Equipment p. 19 - 20	<b>Required Guidance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Changed</b> name from Maintain and Calibrate Hematological Equipment.</li> <li>• <b>Revised</b> # 1 to state: Clean and maintain hematological equipment as specified in the manufacturer’s operating manual and document the Maintenance Log in the Appendix of this chapter.</li> <li>• <b>Revised</b> # 2 to state: Contact the manufacturer if the equipment is less than a year old to repair or replace if it isn’t operating according to the manufacturer’s specifications.</li> <li>• <b>Revised</b> # 3 to state: Contact WIChematology@doh.wa.gov to place a new order to replace any non-functional equipment when it’s more than a year old.</li> </ul> <b>Procedure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Revised</b> A: Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for cleaning and maintenance.</li> <li>• <b>Added</b> A, 1: Link to Hemocue operating manual</li> <li>• <b>Added</b> A, 2: Link to Masimo Pronto operator’s manual.</li> <li>• <b>Revised</b> C: Document cleaning and maintenance in the maintenance log and keep in local agency files for 4 years.</li> <li>• <b>Revised</b> D with repair and replace guidance that supports required guidance.</li> </ul>	
Universal Precautions	<b>Removed Policy</b>	
Order Hematology Supplies from WIC p. 21 - 23	<b>Required Guidance</b>	

Volume 1, Chapter 10 – Hematology  
Table of Revisions

Policy/Page	Revision	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Revised</b> # 1 to order hematology supplies using the online Hematology Order Form.</li> <li>• <b>Revised</b> # 4 to contact <a href="mailto:WICHematology@doh.wa.gov">WICHematology@doh.wa.gov</a> for instructions when the HemoCue analyzer or Masimo Pronto device needs repair or replacement.</li> <li>• <b>Added:</b> Using Liquid Controls is not a required procedure for HemoCue Analyzers. Agencies who wish to use controls can't use WIC funding sources to purchase them.</li> </ul> <p><b>Procedure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Revised</b> A to state order the amount of hematology supplies for 6 months instead of 1 year.</li> <li>• <b>Revised</b> A, 2 with the shelf life for Hemocue 201+ cuvettes (90 days after opening the vial) and Hemocure 301 cuvettes (use the expiration date on the vial). Use individually wrapped cuvettes by the expiration date on the package.</li> <li>• <b>Revised</b> A, 3: The Masimo sensors don't have expiration dates.</li> <li>• <b>Revised</b> A, Note: Ordering hematology supplies twice a year is preferred (instead of once a year).</li> <li>• <b>Revised</b> B with current ordering guidance using the online form.</li> <li>• <b>Revised</b> D with instructions for receiving orders and guidance for when the order is incomplete or incorrect.</li> <li>• <b>Added</b> F: Keep the original packing slip on file for 6 years.</li> </ul>	