

Guidance for Formula-Fed Infants

Guidance for Formula-Fed Infants: A tool to determine when an infant's meal is reimbursable.

Infant Meal	0-3 Months	4-7 Months NOT developmentally ready** for solid foods	4-7 Months developmentally ready** for solid foods	8-11 Months
Infant receives center purchased iron-fortified infant formula and center purchased infant food.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Infant receives center purchased iron-fortified infant formula and parent provides infant food.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Infant receives parent provided iron-fortified infant formula and center provides all infant food.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Infant receives parent provided iron-fortified infant formula and parent provides some infant food.	Yes	Yes	Yes, if at least one* of the meal pattern food components is purchased, prepared and served by the center.	Yes, if at least one* of the meal pattern food components is purchased, prepared and served by the center.
Infant receives parent provided iron-fortified infant formula and parent provides all infant food.	Yes	Yes	No	No
Infant receives parent provided exempt formula and center provides at least one infant food.	Yes, if a special diet statement for exempt formula is on file.	Yes, if a special diet statement for exempt formula is on file.	Yes, if a special diet statement for exempt formula is on file.	Yes, if a special diet statement for exempt formula is on file.
Infant receives parent provided exempt formula and parent provides all infant food.	Yes, if a special diet statement for exempt formula is on file.	Yes, if a special diet statement for exempt formula is on file.	No, center did not provide at least one of the required components. Must have special diet statement for exempt formula.	No, center did not provide at least one of the required components. Must have special diet statement for exempt formula.

Guidance for Breast-Fed Infants

Guidance for Breast Milk-Fed Infants: A tool to determine when an infant's meal is reimbursable.

Infant Meal	0-3 Months	4-7 Months NOT developmentally ready** for solid foods	4-7 Months developmentally ready** for solid foods	8-11 Months
Breast milk pumped and brought to center by parent. Infant is fed by center staff.	Yes Center can claim meals/snacks for an infant who only receives pumped breast milk. Labor costs are incurred by the center (i.e. staff warms breast milk and feeds infant).	Yes Center can claim meals/snacks for an infant who only receives pumped breast milk. Labor costs are incurred by the center (i.e. staff warms breast milk and feeds infant).	Yes, if at least one* of the food components is purchased, prepared and served by the center.	Yes, if at least one* of the food components is purchased, prepared and served by the center.
Center employee breast feeds their enrolled infant on site.	Yes Center can claim meals/snacks for an infant whose mother is a center employee and is breast feeding on site. Labor costs are incurred by the center i.e. the center employee is being paid a salary or wage by the center.	Yes Center can claim meals/snacks for an infant whose mother is a center employee and is breast feeding on site. Labor costs are incurred by the center i.e. the center employee is being paid a salary or wage by the center.	Yes, if at least one* of the food components is purchased, prepared and served by the center.	Yes, if at least one* of the food components are purchased, prepared and served by the center.
Parent breast feeds their infant on site.	No Center cannot claim meals/snacks for an infant when the mother breast feeds on site. No costs of any kind are incurred by the center.	No Center cannot claim meals/snacks when the mother breast feeds on site. No costs, of any kind are incurred by the center.	Yes, if at least one* of the food components is purchased, prepared and served by the center.	Yes, if at least one* of the food components is purchased, prepared and served by the center.

*Sponsors are responsible for providing all the required meal components; however parents may choose to provide one or several of the meal components for their infant, as long as this is in compliance with local health codes. In such a case, the sponsor is required to provide at least one of the food components of the meal pattern in at least the minimum quantities for the meal to be reimbursable. The sponsor needs to ensure that the parent or guardian is truly choosing to provide the preferred food component, and that the sponsor has not solicited (requested or required) the parent or guardian to provide the food components in order to complete the meal and reduce the cost to the sponsor.

**Developmentally Ready: Introduce infant foods when an infant is developmentally ready and parent/guardian is in agreement. Infants are generally ready for infant foods between the ages of 4-6 months. For more information on infant feeding, see [Infant Nutrition and Feeding](#).