



VB #9 – September 12, 2016

**NYS WIC PROGRAM
VENDOR BULLETIN
Title: Introduction to eWIC**

This is an important notice. Please have it translated.

Este aviso es importante. Haga que lo traduzcan.

Это важное сообщение. Пожалуйста, попросите перевести вам данную информацию
Đây là thông báo quan trọng. Xin vui lòng nhờ người chuyển ngữ tài liệu này cho quý vị .
Ovo je važna obavijest. Molimo da tražite da vam se prevede.

यह एक महत्वपूर्ण सूचना है। कृपया इसे अनुवाद करके रखें।

這是一項重要通告。請予以翻譯。

هذه ملاحظة هامة يرجى ترجمتها
זוהי הודעה חשובה. נא לתרגם אותה.

Beginning in 2018, the New York State WIC Program will be changing to an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system for the redemption of WIC benefits. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) ordered all states to start the new system by October 1, 2020. The system will be called **eWIC**. An eWIC card will replace paper checks and allow for faster purchases and improved customer service. eWIC will have positive benefits for both WIC participants and vendors.

In New York, eWIC will be tested with a small number of vendors in 2018. After that, eWIC will be steadily rolled out statewide by 2019. Moving to eWIC will take a lot of planning, development and teamwork with WIC vendors.

The NYS WIC Program is working on four key tasks to move to eWIC:

1. **Replace WICSIS, the WIC Program's management information system.** A new automated, web-based system, called NYWIC, will replace WICSIS. NYWIC will support eWIC technology.
2. **Develop a database of Universal Product Codes (UPC) and Product Look-Up (PLU) codes to create a NYS WIC Approved Product List (APL).** New York State will work with manufacturers and vendors and carry out extensive fieldwork to scan UPCs/PLUs. The APL will include about 12,000 to 15,000 foods. The WIC Program will be reaching out to vendors, particularly large chains, to determine what UPC information is maintained and if it can be shared with the WIC Program to assist with building our listing of approved products.
3. **Make sure all WIC authorized vendors are eWIC ready.** This includes making sure vendors have the equipment and technology to accept eWIC. Stores will need one of the following types of cash register devices:
 - **Integrated Electronic Cash Registers (IECR)** – A point of sale system (POS) that integrates WIC into the normal transaction process is preferred. It allows vendors to keep track of inventory, payment, and settlement for WIC items within the same system that manages purchases for cash and other tenders. Customers and cashiers will find it easier to use WIC. Separation of WIC items from non-WIC items will not be necessary.
 - **Stand-beside WIC terminals** – The stand-beside POS solution consists of a terminal and item scanner that operates independently from a vendor's cash register system. This solution is not an integrated solution, so the stand-beside POS is entirely separate from

the store's overall inventory, payment, and settlement system for other tender types. This device may require double scan for those stores that use an electronic inventory system. Separation of WIC food items from non-WIC items will still be necessary. Vendors currently operating a State-provided SNAP stand-beside device should note that the WIC stand-beside POS will be a separate device.

The NYS WIC Program will be contacting vendors to collect information about existing cash register systems. You do not need to take any action at this time.

4. **Providing frequent communication and training to prepare WIC agencies, participants and vendors for implementation.** The New York State WIC Program will provide project updates through vendor bulletins, quarterly webinars, and trainings. Vendors will also have opportunities to provide feedback throughout the process.

Email the NYS WIC Program with eWIC questions at nyswic@health.ny.gov, or contact your Vendor Management Agency.

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