Prescribing Food Packages to the Breastfeeding Dyad

In Crossroads, the food package for a mother/infant dyad must agree with the Breastfeeding Status. The Breastfeeding Status is initially determined by the responses made on the Health Information screen to the questions “Are you breastfeeding?” and “Do you give any formula?” Adjustments may be made on the Health Information or Prescribe Foods screens.

There are five breastfeeding status classifications/feeding options for infants in Crossroads and five corresponding food packages for postpartum women. See the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response to “Are you Breastfeeding?”</th>
<th>Response to “Do you give any formula?”</th>
<th>Amount of Formula Prescribed</th>
<th>Infant Breastfeeding Status</th>
<th>Woman Category and Breastfeeding Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Fully breastfed (receives no formula from WIC)</td>
<td>Breastfeeding Woman - Fully breastfeeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>&lt;50% of the Category Max Quantity for infant age</td>
<td>Partially breastfed &lt; = MMA</td>
<td>Breastfeeding Woman - Partially breastfeeding &lt; = MMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>&gt;50% of the Category Max Quantity for infant age</td>
<td>Partially breastfed &gt; MMA</td>
<td>Breastfeeding Woman - Partially breastfeeding &gt; MMA*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Category Max Quantity for infant age</td>
<td>Fully formula fed</td>
<td>Breastfeeding Woman – Fully Formula Fed *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Category Max Quantity for infant age</td>
<td>Fully formula fed</td>
<td>Non Breastfeeding Woman**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Note: After six months postpartum this woman is not eligible for food benefits, but remains counted as a participant.
** Note: After six months postpartum this woman is no longer eligible to participate in WIC.

An infant who is breastfeeding in practice can be prescribed any amount of formula, from 1 can a month to the Category Max Quantity listed on the Prescribe Foods Screen. The Monthly Maximum Allowance (MMA) refers to an amount that is less than or equal to half of the Category Max Quantity for age. The user must be very aware of the infant age at issuance. Depending on when the infant is added to the program and the family issuance day, it is possible that there will be two issuances that occur within the first month of life. Only one can of powdered formula may be issued in the first month of life. Issuing more formula pushes the dyad into a Partially Breastfeeding > MMA category which has a significant impact on the mother’s food package.
**Partially Breastfeeding \( \leq \) MMA** means the dyad is breastfeeding and is receiving formula from WIC up to and including an amount that is half of the **Category Max Quantity** for age.

**Partially Breastfeeding > MMA** means the dyad is breastfeeding and is receiving formula from WIC in an amount that is above half of the **Category Max Quantity** for age. Women who are partially breastfeeding an infant younger than six months of age that receives “Partially Breastfed > MMA” food package will receive the same foods and quantities as a non-breastfeeding woman. Women who are partially breastfeeding an infant six months of age or older that receive a “Partially Breastfed > MMA” food package are not eligible to receive food benefits. These women are still counted as active on the WIC Program and are eligible to receive breastfeeding support, breastfeeding supplies and nutrition education.

For more information about food packages in Crossroads, refer to the **NC WIC Interim Program Manual**, Chapter 7.

On the **Prescribe Food** screen in Crossroads, the “Partially Breastfed > MMA” food package for a Breastfeeding Woman who is > 6 months postpartum will appear as shown in the screenshot below. While the CPA can make adjustments to the food package in the **Food Prescription Items** container, after the prescription is saved NO Food Instruments (FIs) will be issued, since this category of participant is not eligible to receive food benefits.

On the **Issue Food Instruments** screen, the woman’s “Partially Breastfed > MMA” food package BEFORE issuance is marked “Fully Formula Fed.” In addition, the check box in the left-most column is disabled (“greyed out“). The woman’s “Partially Breastfed > MMA” food package on the **Issue Food Instruments** screen AFTER issuance is marked “Issued” – however NO FIs have been issued and none will be found in the FI Investigation Tool. (“Issued” in this case is more of a participation indicator than an issuance indicator.)
If the CPA and breastfeeding mother decide that the mother would like to have food benefits for that month, the CPA can take the following steps to change the dyad’s food prescriptions to “Partially Breastfed <=MMA”:

1. On the Issue Food Instruments screen, select “Change Rx.” The application will navigate back to the Prescribe Food screen.

2. Select the infant’s icon in the family carousel.

3. Change the formula **Quantity** field to an amount that is less than or equal to half of the **Category Max Quantity** for the age group (for example, if the **Category Max Quantity** = 624 (as with Infant Formula, prescribe </=312). The infant’s **Breastfeeding Status** will change to “Partially Breastfed <=MMA.” **Note:** What displays on the Prescribe Food screen as the **Category Max Quantity** for Exempt Infant Formulas and WIC-eligible Medical Foods is 884, however, that only applies if the foods are removed. In this instance, the user would also have to enter a quantity </= 312 to result in a Breastfeeding Status of “Partially Breastfed <=MMA” and the issuance of some formula as well as food benefits for the mother.

4. Select the mother’s icon in the carousel. The mother’s **Breastfeeding Status** will automatically update to “Partially Breastfed <=MMA.”

5. Select **SAVE**. The user will receive a status message that the Food Prescription saved successfully. The application will navigate to the Issue Food Instruments screen. The woman’s “Partially Breastfed <= MMA” food package on the Issue Food Instruments screen BEFORE issuance is marked “Full.” In this instance, “Full” is indicative of full benefits being available, not a reflection of the breastfeeding status of the woman. This is in contrast to a 1/3 or 2/3 prorated food package issued when the family picks up late.