

Utah abstract – Utah WIC Program – submitted by Paola Velez

Title: E-Prescribing for WIC Foods and Formula

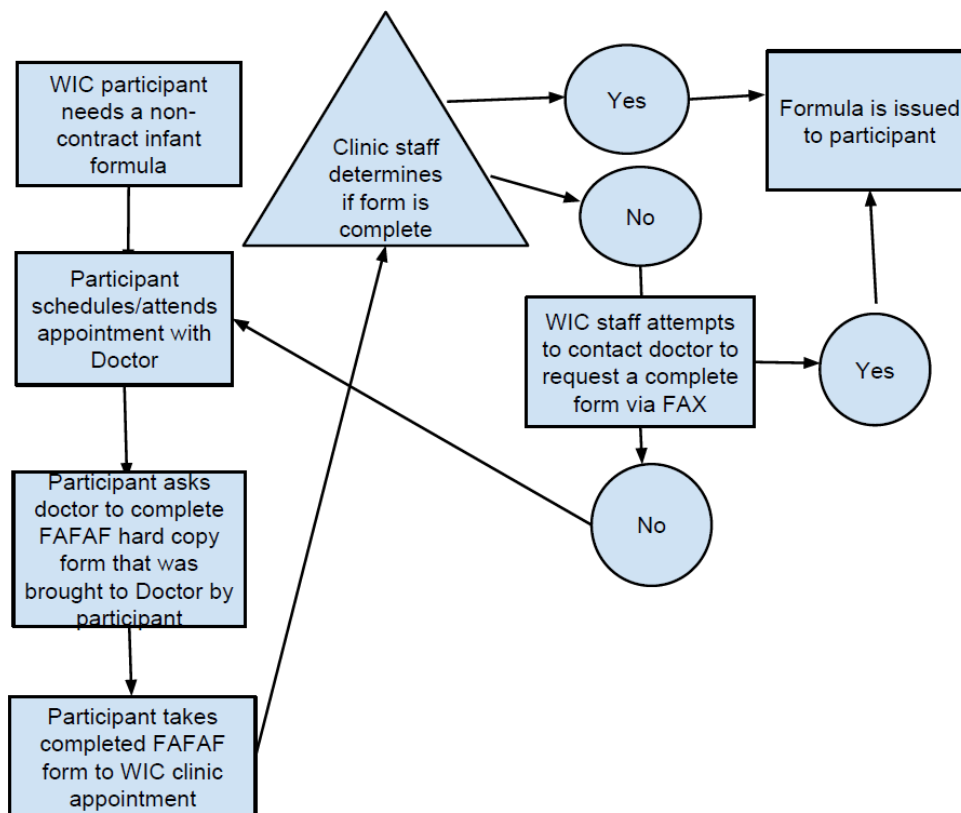
People involved:

Utah WIC Program and Utah Health Information Network (UHIN).

Background:

Many Utah pediatricians help their patients receive nutritional support through Utah’s WIC program. This requires physicians to complete Formula and Food Authorizations Forms, which WIC participants then take to their WIC clinics. Currently, the process has many problems resulting in incomplete forms being taken to Utah WIC clinics.

Current Process in diagram format:



Project Goals:

Utah WIC and UHIN are collaborating to move this manual process to a more efficient electronic process using cHIE Direct.

Methods:

Health care providers can simply complete Adobe fillable Formula and food Authorization Forms, attach them to a CHIE Direct message, and email them to their WIC clinic. CHIE Direct is HIPAA compliant and a secure message system as messages are fully encrypted.

Results:

We have promoted to the Utah medical community through newsletters, e.g., The Growing Times (Utah Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics).

This project was piloted in September 2014 in 2 WIC agencies. Currently, we have received very little response from the medical community.

Discussion:

Based on the high proportion of defective or incomplete FAFAFs (55.5%) that are being manually processed to obtain a complete status at an additional salary cost of \$733.25 per month, it is recommended that an investment be made in making this an electronic process to eliminate 100% of defective or incomplete FAFAFs. This would result in annual savings of \$8,799.00.

The estimated cost to implement an online FAFAF submission process is \$4,000.

Based on the annual cost of the current process estimated to be \$8,799.00, the online process can be paid for in approximately 6 months.