



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

December 19, 2012

CHDP Provider Information Notice: 12-08

TO: ALL CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY PREVENTION (CHDP)
PROGRAM PROVIDERS AND MEDI-CAL MANAGED CARE PLANS

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USE OF THE WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION (WHO) GROWTH STANDARDS FOR ASSESSMENT
OF GROWTH FOR INFANTS FROM BIRTH TO 24 MONTHS AND
UPDATES IN THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN
(WIC) SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM

The purpose of this information notice is to issue recommendations for CHDP providers regarding the use of the WHO growth standards for infants from birth to two years. In addition, this notice will inform you of the new United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requirement that the California WIC Program implement use of these growth charts in local program operations by October 1, 2012.

In September 2010, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the National Institutes of Health, and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended that health care providers use WHO growth standards for assessment of growth of infants from birth to two years in the United States. The CDC growth charts published in 2000 continue to be recommended for children ages 2 to 20:

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Recommended Growth Chart</i>
Birth to 24 months	WHO Growth Chart (2009)
2 to 20 years	CDC Growth Chart (2000)

The CDC website, <http://www.cdc.gov/growthcharts>, offers background information about the development of the WHO growth standards, recommendations, downloadable clinical growth charts, data tables and an interactive online training course for health care providers. Local CHDP programs will offer additional information and training opportunities for CHDP providers and staff. Online training material is available at the CHDP website, <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/chdp/Pages/WHOTrain.aspx>.

Attached is a letter from the California WIC Program to health care providers. It provides an overview of the WIC Program's planned transition to the use of the WHO growth standards for infants and children birth to 24 months. The WIC Program is the

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largest public health nutrition program serving young low-income children and is available statewide. Most infants and children under five years of age that receive CHDP health assessments also participate in the WIC Program. Implementing the use of the WHO growth standards allows the WIC Program to continue to focus on its primary goal of decreasing risk of poor birth outcomes and improving the health of participants during critical times of growth and development by providing targeted nutrition education services and lactation support.

There will be a period of transition as health care providers shift from the CDC charts to the WHO charts for the younger age group. CHDP providers are requested to initiate use of the WHO growth charts at this time. By October 30, 2013, all CHDP providers must integrate use of the WHO growth charts for CHDP exams.

For those providers who are converting or have converted to electronic health records, please consult with your information technology department or other technical support for assistance.

CHDP provides health screening exams for large numbers of WIC infants and toddlers. There will be some differences in identification of low stature, underweight, and overweight using the WHO growth charts. If you have questions related to the use of the WHO growth charts for CHDP health assessment exams or need training in methods to use these growth charts, please contact your local CHDP program.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Dimand, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Children's Medical Services

Enclosure

December 19, 2012

For further information:

CDC Growth Charts

<http://www.cdc.gov/growthcharts/>

WHO Growth Chart Training

<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpao/growthcharts/who/index.htm>

CHDP WHO Growth Charts Training

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/chdp/Pages/WHOTrain.aspx>

One-page, printable version of the recommendations for and advantages of using the WHO growth charts [PDF-92K]

http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpao/growthcharts/who/downloads/Using_WHO_growth_charts.pdf

CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports (MMWR) Recommendations and Reports

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5909a1.htm>

de Onis M, Siyam A, Borghi E, Onyango AW, Piwoz E, Garza C. Comparison of the World Health Organization Growth Velocity Standards With Existing US Reference Data. *Pediatrics* 2011;128(1);e18. Epub 2011 Jun 27.

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/128/1/e18.full.pdf+html>

Eidelman AI, Schanler RJ. American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Breastfeeding. Breastfeeding and the use of human milk. *Pediatrics*. 2012;129(3):e827–e841. Epub 2012 Feb 27. <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/129/3/e827.full.pdf>



RON CHAPMAN, MD, MPH
Director & State Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

September 26, 2012

Dear Health Care Provider:

The California Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program is pleased to announce that effective October 1, 2012, we will begin using the World Health Organization (WHO) International Growth Standards to assess growth and development of infants and children birth to <24 months of age and continue to use the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Growth Charts for children 24 – 59 months of age.

Using the new WHO Growth Standards will require some changes to the WIC Anthropometric risk criteria. However, by adopting the WHO growth standards for infants and children <24 months of age, WIC supports the medical community by using consistent health messages and encouraging continuity of care to your patients who receive WIC services.

Background

The 2009 WHO Growth Charts describe a **standard** for how healthy children should grow under **optimal** environmental and health conditions and is based on infants who were breastfed for 12 months and predominantly breastfed for at least 4 months.

The familiar Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Infant Growth Charts are growth **references** describing how certain children grew in a particular place and time, **not necessarily in environments for optimal growth.**

The CDC, along with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other organizations including the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends the use of the WHO Growth Standards for infants and children birth to <24 months. Because the methods used in creating the CDC and WHO growth charts were similar after 24 months, the CDC also recommends continuing to use the CDC charts for children aged ≥ 24 months. In addition, a chart for the older child is needed at 24 months because at this age WIC and health care providers stop using the recumbent length and begin measuring the standing height.



Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program
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P.O. Box 997375 MS 8600 Sacramento, CA 95899-7375
(916) 928-8500 Internet Address: www.wicworks.ca.gov

Changes in WIC

Growth charts adopted for infants and children in WIC:

<u>Age Group:</u>	<u>Growth Chart:</u>
Birth to < 24 Months	WHO Growth Chart (2009)
From 24 Months to 59 months	CDC Growth Chart (2000)

New cutoffs and criteria changes for birth to <24 months:

<u>Criteria:</u>	<u>Cutoff:</u>
Underweight:	≤2 percentile: Weight for Age
High Weight for Length:	≥98 th percentile: Weight for Length
Short Stature:	≤2 percentile: Length for Age

For further information:

For further information on the WHO and CDC Growth Charts, we are providing the following references:

- “CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) Recommendations and Reports”, September 10, 2010. Go to: www.cdc.gov/growthcharts; click on **MMWR: Use of the WHO and CDC Growth Charts for children Aged 0-59 Months in the U.S.**
- General information on the WHO Growth Standards/Charts and access to the WHO Growth Charts can be found at: www.cdc.gov/growthcharts; click on **WHO Growth Charts.**
- A copy of this letter and other information about California WIC’s implementation of the WHO Growth Standards/Growth Charts is on the California WIC website at: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/wicworks under “News & Updates”; click on **World Health Organization (WHO) Growth Charts.**

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- You may locate a WIC contact in your area on our website: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/wicworks under Professional Resources/Health Care Professionals/MD-WIC Network; click on **WIC Contacts for MDs**.
- For additional questions about California WIC's implementation of the WHO Growth Standards/Charts, please send an email to: MD-WIC@cdph.ca.gov or please call Paula Etcheberry at (916) 928-8539 or Waverly Pierce at (916) 928 8753.

We look forward to collaborating with the medical community to embrace the WHO Growth Chart standards statewide to establish the breastfed child as the norm during this important period of childhood growth.

Sincerely,
(Original, signed by)

Barbara Longo, M.S., R.D.
Deputy Division Chief
Nutrition and Local Program Services
California Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program