Subject: Drug and Harmful Substance Abuse Education

References: 246.11(a)(3)
246.7(a)

Policy: Local agency must provide information regarding the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol at the time of the family’s first certification in WIC and make referrals as appropriate.

Purpose: To improve the health status of WIC participants by preventing and/or reducing the use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs.

Procedures:
- Discuss the potential harmful effects of drugs or other harmful substances.
- Give printed education materials to pregnant women and the parents/caregivers of infants and children. The materials should:
  - Address the harmful effects of alcohol, tobacco and street drugs.
  - Include a current list of local resources for drug or other harmful substance abuse counseling and treatment. Each local agency must have and maintain a listing of these resources in their community.
- A specific referral for treatment or counseling for drug or other substance abuse must be provided any time a participant or parent/caregiver is identified as abusing drugs or other harmful substances. Document referral, if given.
- Document education and materials were given.
- If substance use and/or abuse is suspected or identified at recertification, the information should be given again. A referral for treatment or counseling may also be appropriate.

Guidance:
- Educational materials that address the harmful effects of alcohol, tobacco and street drugs are available on the WIC Order form.
- Local agencies are encouraged to include smoking cessation programs on the resource listing.