

Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment (VENA) in the Special Supplemental Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program

What is Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment?

VENA is an initiative developed jointly by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and the National WIC Association. VENA was developed in response to an Institute of Medicine report on traditional diet assessments used to determine WIC eligibility. VENA defines a participant-centered comprehensive WIC nutrition assessment using a health outcomes-based approach. VENA is also a part of a continual quality improvement process for WIC that focuses on:

- Nutrition Assessment Practices and Processes
- Staff Competencies and Training
- Quality Assurance and Monitoring

How will VENA change the way WIC operates?

VENA is expected to impact WIC staff members and WIC participants alike.

WIC staff members will...

- Collect relevant nutrition assessment information
- Link assessment information to individual needs and concerns
- Engage participants in goal setting
- Weave nutrition and diet as the common thread throughout the assessment process

WIC participants will...

- Experience a positive encounter
- Receive information and services addressing their individual needs and concerns
- Become involved in goal setting to improve their own health

What is motivational interviewing and how does it relate to VENA?

Motivational interviewing is a participant-centered, directive method that enhances motivation to change by exploring and resolving an individual's needs and concerns.

When will VENA be fully implemented in Georgia?

Implementation of VENA is a gradual process. FNS expects all states to fully implement the VENA process by 2010. Georgia is well on its way to meeting this guideline.

Legislative authority:

Federal Child Nutrition Act of 1966

Contact: Todd R. Stormant, RD, LD (404) 657-2884

E-mail: trstormant@dhr.state.ga.us

<http://health.state.ga.us/programs/nutrition/>

<http://health.state.ga.us/programs/wic/>

