Can my center claim this participant’s meal for CACFP reimbursement?

CLAIMING MEALS FOR PARTICIPANTS WITH SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS

Start

Does the participant’s meal/snack have all required meal pattern components?

Yes → Are all components supplied by the center?

Yes → CLAIM!
The center has met CACFP requirements by serving the full meal pattern and supplying all required components.

No → Is there a medical statement from the participant’s health care provider on file supporting why the meal does not meet the full CACFP meal pattern and/or why components are supplied by the participant?

No → DO NOT CLAIM!
The center is not serving all required components and/or there is no medical documentation to support why the participant is supplying the substitution(s).

• A participant’s written or verbal request to eliminate a component(s) from his/her meals is not sufficient to allow the center to claim that participant’s meal(s), unless it is for serving a non-dairy milk beverage that is nutritionally equivalent to milk. (See Guidance Memo 12A)

• Lifestyle preferences and/or a participant’s personal choice are generally not the result of a medical condition. Therefore, if the participant is supplying food item(s) for these reasons, his/her meals cannot be claimed.

Yes → CLAIM!
• Disabilities: When the medical statement indicates a disability, the center MUST accommodate the special diet requirements; this may include offering to supply the substitutions.

• Allergies/Intolerances (non-disabilities): When a medical statement indicates allergies or intolerances that are not a disability, the participant or the center may provide substitutions for the special dietary need.

The center can claim the participant’s meals/snacks only when it supplies all other required meal components.

In most cases, a special dietary need does not omit an entire meal component. A creditable food item from each required meal component must be served. For example, oranges can be served in place of strawberries when a participant has an allergy to strawberries.