Comparing APLs to APLs: Oregon’s Approved Product List

National WIC Association
Technology and Program Integrity Conference

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Oregon WIC EBT (eWIC) Basics

- Online
- Processor is J.P. Morgan
- QC contractor is Maximus
- Pilot January 2014
- 110,000 participants
- 553 grocery and pharmacy vendors
- 478 farmers authorized for CVB
Help from Other State Agencies

- Received APLs from TX, Chickasaw, and KY
- Started with Kentucky APL
- Created an Access database
- Filtered out regional foods
Vendor Assistance

• Received lists from distributors, grocery stores, and pharmacies

• Reviewed lists for approved items

• Needed to decipher some product descriptions

• Needed to convert different UPC formats
Scanning Equipment

- Motorola MC5590 Scanner
- PTS TracerPlus Software – Sold Separately
- Used software to create form for scanning and data entry
- Loaded updated UPCs before each scanning session
Scanning Process

• Scan UPC

• Data entry fields collected:
  – Short description
  – Long description
  – Unit of Measure
  – Quantity
  – Oregon WIC approved checkbox
  – Scan date stamp

• Items already in database automatically populate data entry form
Scanning Highlights

• Started scanning in March 2011

• APL workgroup

• 1-2 people, 1 hour per store

• 9,000 items and growing
Import Process

- Cradle for scanner
- Software uploads data to Access
- Edit and add cat/subcat codes
- Converted to Oregon WIC conventions for product descriptions and UPC format
Scanning Tips

• Scanning staff must know the authorized food list

• Brrrr-ing gloves for scanning refrigerated and frozen foods!

• Work in teams of two or more for large stores
APL Maintenance

- Vendor Advisory Council
- Monthly vendor eWIC newsletter
- Oregon WIC website and APL form
- Nutritionists’ local agency reviews
- Vendor team’s store monitoring visits
Cross-Team Involvement

- Food Review – requests UPCs from food manufacturers
- Formula Workgroup – requests UPCs from formula manufacturers
- Food Court – makes decisions on which foods to add to the APL
Lessons Learned

• Use another state’s APL (or NUPC) to get started
• Use multiple sources of input, including vendors
• Start working on the APL sooner than later
• Create an APL team to discuss issues
• Decide if you will use the generic PLU only
• Like laundry and dishes, the APL never seems to be complete!
Next Steps for Oregon WIC

• Complete the APL development in the MIS for eWIC implementation
• Continue to request and collect UPCs from vendors and distributors
• Scan stores regionally prior to pilot and rollout
• Share Oregon’s APL and lessons learned with other state agencies
Questions?

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