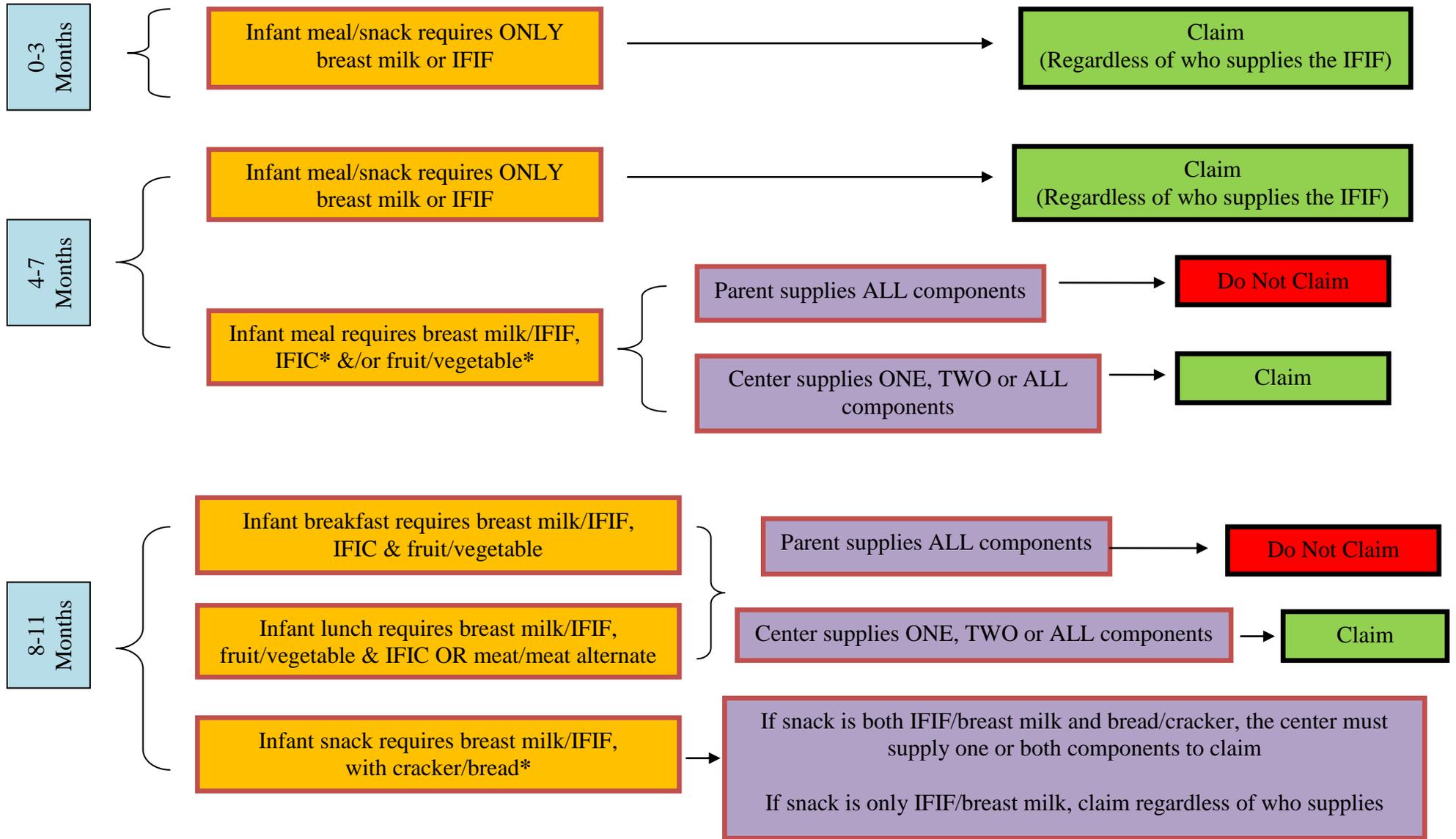


Infant Meal Flow Chart



Infant Meals must be recorded on the Infant Meal Record sheets, NOT on the Meal Count and Daily Participation Summary sheet used for recording meals for 1-12 year olds.

In order to claim an infant meal for reimbursement ALL required meal pattern components MUST be offered to an infant. If an infant is NOT offered all of the required components do not claim the meal for reimbursement. If a medical statement is on file for any reason (allergy, intolerance, etc.), the center must still provide one component in order to claim the meal for reimbursement.

***When developmentally ready.**

Your center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, a Federal program that provides reimbursement for serving healthy meals and snacks to children receiving day care. Child care centers participating in this program must follow meal requirements established by the USDA.

As an agency serving infant meals for reimbursement, you are required to follow the infant meal pattern:

Infants 0-3 months

Breakfast	Lunch	Snack
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iron-Fortified Infant Formula (IFIF) or breast milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFIF or breast milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFIF or breast milk

Infants 4-7 months

Breakfast	Lunch	Snack
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iron-Fortified Infant Formula (IFIF) or breast milk • Iron-Fortified Infant Cereal (IFIC), when developmentally ready 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFIF or breast milk • IFIC, when developmentally ready • Fruit and/or vegetable, when developmentally ready 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFIF or breast milk

Infants 8-11 months

Breakfast	Lunch	Snack
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iron-Fortified Infant Formula (IFIF) or breast milk • Iron-Fortified Infant Cereal (IFIC) • Fruit and/or vegetable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFIF or breast milk • IFIC and/or meat, fish, poultry, egg yolk, cheese, cottage cheese, cheese food, cheese spread, cooked dry beans or peas • Fruit and/or vegetable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFIF, breast milk or 100% fruit juice • Enriched or whole grain bread or crackers, when developmentally ready

Even when an infant is developmentally ready to eat table foods, you are still required to follow the infant meal pattern until the child is past one year of age. This includes iron fortified infant formula at each meal and iron fortified infant cereal for breakfast and lunch. If a meat/meat alternate is served for lunch, cereal is not required (8-11 month old). Whole milk cannot be served to children under age one. It can only be introduced after the first birthday.

Any deviation from the infant meal pattern requires a letter signed by the child’s medical authority. This includes any food allergy the child may have that eliminates a required meal component. The center must still supply a minimum of one component in order to claim the meal for reimbursement.