

Table 1: Commercial Infant and Other Foods Reimbursable as Meal Components in the Infant Meal Pattern in Child Nutrition Programs

MEAL COMPONENT	REIMBURSABLE	NOT REIMBURSABLE	COMMENTS
Fruits and Vegetables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baby foods which list fruit or vegetable as the first ingredient ▪ Baby foods fruit and vegetables which contain multiple fruits or vegetables and list fruit or vegetable as the first ingredient 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baby food dinners which list fruit or vegetable as the first ingredient ▪ Baby foods in the jarred cereal with fruit category ▪ Baby foods in the dessert category (will generally have dessert or pudding as part of the product name) 	Plain fruit and vegetable commercial baby food products are generally considered to contain a higher quantity of fruit or vegetable and provide more nutrition for the dollar than those with a variety of additional non-fruit or non-vegetable ingredients.
Meat/Meat Alternate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plain Strained baby food meats (beef, chicken, turkey, lamb, veal, ham) ▪ Gerber 2nd™ foods and baby food meat products (beef and beef gravy, chicken and chicken gravy, ham and ham gravy, lamb and lamb gravy, turkey and turkey gravy and veal and veal gravy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baby food combination dinners ▪ Meat sticks, or finger sticks ▪ Commercial fish sticks, other commercial breaded or batter fish or seafood products, canned fish with bones, hot dogs, and sausages. ▪ Yogurt, nuts, seeds, and/or seed butters 	It is difficult to determine the actual amount of various food components in baby food combination dinners and they generally have less nutritional value than single-ingredient meats. Fish sticks, canned fish, hot dogs, sausages, nuts, seeds, and seed butters can cause an infant to choke or may cause an allergic reaction.
Bread and Cracker, and Infant Cereal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Breads (white, wheat, whole wheat, French, Italian all without nuts) ▪ Biscuits, Bagels English muffins (all without nuts) ▪ Pita bread, rolls, soft tortillas ▪ crackers (saltines or snack crackers, matzo crackers, animal crackers, graham crackers made without honey, Zwieback, teething biscuits ▪ any iron-fortified dry cereal specially formulated for and recognized as cereal for infants that is routinely mixed with breast milk or iron-fortified infant formula 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Iron fortified dry infant cereals containing fruit ▪ commercial jarred baby food cereals which are “wet” ▪ Ready to eat breakfast cereal (cold dry) and breakfast cereals (cooked) 	Bread and crackers must be prepared in a form that is suitable for an infant to use as finger food and reduces the risk of choking (small thin strips). Providers do not need to calculate the amount of bread or the numbers of crackers that constitute a serving size in the Infant Meal Pattern because the serving size range starts at zero. Honey in baked goods could contain Clostridium botulinum spores which can cause serious foodborne illness in infants
Fruit Juice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Full-strength fruit juice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vegetable juices and fruit juices with yogurt 	It is recommended that fruit juice containing or fortified with vitamin C and pasteurized fruit juice be served.