

# Techs, Specs and Rules Update

**September 20, 2011**

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# Agenda

- WIC Universal Interface Status Update
- WIC EBT Operating Rules and Technical Implementation Guide
- V4 smart card standardization
- Smart card split tender initiative

# WIC Universal Interface

- **Goal:** Standardize functions and data exchanged between MIS and EBT systems
- **Outcome 1:** Reduce time and effort to implement EBT
  - MIS transfers from one state to another with Universal Interface already built in
  - EBT providers, online or offline, will have less to build to
- **Outcome 2:** Reduce cost
  - Less custom programming for the initial implementation
  - Enhance competition on rebids

# WIC Universal Interface

What have we been doing this past year?

- Published draft document November 2010
- Met in Fairfax, VA March 2011
- Convened weekly conference calls April – September 2011
  - Update per comments and top issues
  - Refined Functions and rules
- Smaller workgroup met to define data elements – July/Aug 2011

# WIC Universal Interface

## Next Steps

- The September 2011 version was distributed for comments
- We need to review the data rules and define error messages
- Publish for use – target October/November 2011

**If you want More Details – attend the NWA Session at 8:30  
Thurs**

## WIC EBT Operating Rules

- Published in December 2010 on FNS website
- Follow similar approach that other payment networks use
  - Visa/Mastercard/Discover/AMEX
  - SNAP & Cash EBT – Quest Rules

## WIC EBT Operating Rules

- How will the Operating Rules be Maintained and Updated?
  - FNS plans to maintain the current and updated versions on a web site
  - States and other stakeholders can submit change orders
  - The Change Orders will be published for input by the work group

## WIC EBT Operating Rules

- Change orders (continued)
  - Comments will be considered
  - Final change will be published
- We expect to publish periodic updates – annually

## WIC EBT Operating Rules

- Why not have 90 different operating rules?
  - Retail systems must be programmed to handle WIC EBT purchases.
  - Imagine having 90 different receipt requirements
    - Different printed message for each purchase
    - Different data
    - Different location for the availability date

## WIC EBT Operating Rules

- Integrated WIC EBT systems are an improvement over stand-beside equipment
  - Reduced Participant stigma
  - Time in lane is nearly the same as any other food purchase
  - Fewer clerk errors and dissatisfied WIC customers

# Technical Implementation Guide (TIG)

**Published in December 2010**

**Describes messages and files**

- Balance inquiry messages
- Purchase Messages
- Receipt content
- Authorized Product List (APL)
- Hot Card List
- Daily Claim
- Reconciliation

# Technical Implementation Guide

- Revised TIG is released today
- We are seeking comments by October 11, 2011
  - EBT Summit Meeting to standardize on-line messages
  - V4 effort by Smart Card States to standardize file handling
  - Many more as well

**Thanks to everyone who contributed!**

# WIC EBT Operating Rules

The Operating Rules become the reference point for EBT implementation

- New stakeholders involved
  - Retail grocers
  - Electronic Cash Register Providers
  - Acquirers, Value Added Resellers and Third Party Processors
  - Card and POS Terminal manufacturers