



*Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans*

# Memo

To: WIC Coordinators  
From: WIC Nutrition Unit  
Date: November 21, 2012  
Subject: Hemoglobin Analyzers: Non-Invasive Measuring System

A company has introduced a new hemoglobin analyzer that assesses hemoglobin without requiring a blood draw. There are obvious advantages to such technology – both for WIC staff and for participants. However, there are a number of limitations to its use in WIC clinics, and the equipment may be more expensive.

The company, Maismo, has been contacting local agencies directly, and promoting their equipment. The non-invasive method is being tested in a number of WIC programs around the country, and once the results are known, we will share them with you. Additionally, the state WIC staff will be meeting with the manufacturer in early December, to learn more about the technology and appropriate use of the machines.

**We suggest that you not purchase** any new equipment until we can provide you with more information and guidance.

Some issues that local agencies need to consider are:

- This new system is not appropriate for all WIC participants (e.g., children less than 3 years, participants with cold hands, or polished fingernails), so local agencies will need to **have more than one** analyzer, and all of the supplies for both systems, available.
- Local agencies will need to provide training for using the new system. There are procedures that need to be followed in order to achieve accurate and reliable results.
- Policies and procedures may need to be revised, including criteria for determining which analyzer to use in which circumstances need to be created to support the decisions about which test to use.
- The new system will be more expensive per test compared to the traditional analyzer requiring a blood draw.