

# Policy Clarifications - SNAP PFS16719-580

Submitted: 6/2013

Agency: CAOs

Citations:

Subject: Issuing Suspended SNAP Benefits

[580.2 Benefit Issuance Cycles](#) states that a household eligible for ongoing benefits will receive benefits each month based on an issuance cycle. The benefits post to the recipient's EBT account on the scheduled payment date. CAO actions to open, close, or change issuance information must be data entered on or before the deadline date for the appropriate cycle. Although households receive benefits on different dates in the month according to the mailing cycle, the EFFECTIVE DATE for all actions is the FIRST DAY OF THE MONTH

When processing a late SAR/LIN received after deadline but before the Extended Due Date is it incorrect to issue a SNAP OTI to eligible households prior to the next normally scheduled benefit day?

For example: If a LIN is received 6/4/13 and processed on 6/5/13, would it be incorrect based on policy to issue a SNAP OTI on 6/7/2013, prior to the payment date of 06/10/13?

The CAO is inundated with a high volume of late SARs. Holding on to an OTI issuance until the day before the next scheduled benefit day creates a high volume of OTIs to be processed. And if the regular payment day is on a Monday, the benefit would still post prior to the next payment date.

Are we required to hold the issuance of a restored suspended SNAP benefit until the day before the payment day to ensure that the household does not get their benefit early?

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**Response By: Division of Federal Programs and Program Management**

**Date:  
06/20/13**

There is no restriction in policy to issue SNAP OTIs before the payment date in these circumstances. The only requirement is that benefits be reinstated and provided no later than 10 days after the normal issuance date (see [SNAPH 571.5](#)).

However, if the CAO suspects a pattern to obtain early benefits, a local procedure may be established to discourage such a practice.