

# Connecticut Department of Public Health

## Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children

### Guidelines for Clinicians Regarding WIC Standard Contract Formulas and WIC Special Formula Processing

1. WIC program eligibility is based on income, category (pregnant, breastfeeding, or postpartum woman, infant or child up to age 5), residency and nutritional need. In most cases, the WIC program can accommodate requests for special medical or exempt infant formulas, also referred to as WIC eligible nutritionals, **based on a medical diagnosis (ICD-10 code)**. All WIC Special Formulas can be obtained at retail grocery stores and pharmacies.
2. Effective October 1, 2016, the Connecticut WIC Program has a sole-source rebate contract with Abbott Laboratories and can provide the following standard formulas:
  - Similac® Advance®
  - Similac® Sensitive®
  - Similac® Isomil® Soy
  - Similac® Total Comfort®Please note that as of late 2020, all of these are 20 calories per ounce at standard dilution and thus do not require the **WIC Medical Documentation Form**. Note that all but the soy formula are **not** indicated for anyone with a known or suspected milk protein allergy, or when a lactose free diet is indicated. For these conditions, a health care provider must provide medical documentation.  
WIC Participants will continue to receive up to the maximum amount of formula per Federal Regulations based on breastfeeding assessment, reconstituted ounces, and age of the infant. The Connecticut WIC Program no longer provides **non-contract** standard milk and soy based infant formulas.
3. Issuance of exempt infant formulas (WIC Special Formulas) approved for use in the Connecticut WIC Program requires a WIC Medical Documentation Form with an ICD-10 code diagnosis, based on indications for usage, medical rationale, and age appropriateness. The maximum amount of reconstituted oz. of infant formula at standard dilution that can be given to an infant depends on the age of the infant. For your convenience, the WIC Medical Documentation Form lists the most common eligible diagnoses and their corresponding ICD-10 codes. For conditions not included in this list, please record the diagnosis and ICD-10 code in the “Other” section.
4. Medically indicated enteral nutritional products (WIC eligible nutritionals) for women or children also require a completed WIC Medical Documentation Form. The maximum amount of formula prescribed to a woman or child (1 year and older) is 910 reconstituted oz per month (based on the product’s standard dilution).
5. A Medical Doctor (MD), Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), or a Physician’s Assistant (PA) who is authorized to write prescriptions can prescribe or request WIC approved Special Formulas. The medical documentation should include the patient’s name, date of birth, medical rationale for the formula, the caloric density (e.g. 24 cal/oz, 27 cal/oz), packaging (powder, concentrate or ready to use), length of issuance, and total volume per day (unless ad lib). It is useful to indicate any special instructions (e.g., if anything is to be added to the formula, special mixing instructions, etc.). The health care provider’s signature should include his/her credentials (MD, APRN, or PA).
6. It could take ten days to two weeks from the time an individual applies to the WIC program until WIC Special Formulas can be purchased by participants at a retail outlet. Therefore, to coordinate care, when an infant or child is being discharged home and is anticipated to require a WIC special formula, the WIC local agency should receive the WIC Certification and WIC Medical Documentation Form in advance, ideally two weeks before hospital discharge. The health care provider can fax or email a prescription or WIC Medical Documentation Form to the local agency to facilitate this process and can also call the local WIC Program Nutritionist to inform them of the anticipated date of discharge.

