

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). WIC Participants will still receive up to the maximum amount of formula per Federal Regulations based on reconstituted ounces and age of the infant. The Connecticut WIC Program no longer provides **non-contract** standard milk and soy based infant formulas.
2. As required by law, the Connecticut WIC program must renegotiate contracts periodically, and all formula companies may bid to for the new contract.

Effective October 1, 2016, the Connecticut WIC Program has a sole-source rebate contract with Abbott Laboratories for standard infant formulas: **Similac® Advance®** and **Similac® Isomil® Soy**. For infants, **Similac® Advance®** and **Similac® Isomil® Soy** (powdered or liquid concentrate) do not require a doctor's prescription. However, if an infant requires, **Similac® Isomil® Soy** a completed **WIC Medical Documentation Form** can help clarify the rationale for issuing a soy product.

3. Effective October 1, 2016 **Enfamil Gentlease is no longer a WIC approved formula. It is not available for issuance in Connecticut.** On October 1, 2016, **Similac® Sensitive®** and **Similac® Total Comfort®** will be new options for those patients that formally required **Enfamil® Gentlease®**. Please note both **Similac® Sensitive®** and **Similac® Total Comfort®** are 19 calorie per fluid ounce products at standard dilution. Thus, patients needing **Similac® Sensitive®** and **Similac® Total Comfort®** will require a completed **WIC Medical Documentation Form, as acknowledgement the health care provider is authorizing the use of a 19 kcal/oz. formula.** Please note that like all other cow's milk based formulas, these products should not be provided to anyone with a known or suspected milk allergy. Also, like other products containing lactose, these products are contraindicated when a totally lactose free diet is indicated. Contact Abbott customer service www.abbottnutrition.com for medical rationale for the change in calorie density.
4. Issuance of exempt infant formulas (WIC Special Formulas) approved for use in the Connecticut WIC Program require a WIC Medical Documentation Form with an ICD-10 code diagnosis (qualifying medical condition), 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 common diagnoses and their corresponding ICD-10 codes. For conditions such as Auto-Immune Disorders and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome where a wide range of codes apply, please record the diagnosis and ICD-10 code in the "Other" section.
5. 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).



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6. 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.; 24cal/oz., 27cal/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).
7. Effective January 1, 2016 all WIC Special Formulas can be obtained at retail grocery stores and pharmacies by WIC participants.
8. Generally, allow **ten days to two weeks** from the time an individual applies to the WIC program until Special Formulas can be purchased by your patient at a retail outlet. For this reason, it is advisable to have the infant/child's parent or guardian bring the **WIC Certification Form and WIC Medical Documentation Form** to the local WIC office at preferably two weeks (minimum one week) before hospital discharge when possible. The clinician should call the local WIC Program Nutritionist to inform her/him of how soon the client will be discharged. The health care provider can fax a prescription or WIC Medical Documentation Form to the local agency to facilitate the process.

