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#22-077

**TO:** WIC Regional Directors  
WIC Local Agency Directors

**FROM:** Amanda Hovis, Director  
Nutrition Education/Clinic Services Unit  
Nutrition Services Section

**DATE:** September 26, 2022

**SUBJECT: Contract Formula Update and Authorization of Temporary Alternatives**

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This memo covers the guidance for the following topics:

1. Standard Contract Formula
2. Temporary Formula Alternatives
3. Therapeutic Formulas
4. Ready-to-Feed formula
5. Formula Resources

### **Standard Contract Formulas**

Texas WIC will begin the new contract for the milk-based formula with Mead Johnson, and the soy-based formula with Abbott starting **October 1, 2022**.

Staff may issue the following standard formulas to WIC infants who use formula:

<b>Contract Standard Formulas – effective October 1</b>				
<b>Formula Code</b>	<b>Formula Name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Container Size</b>	<b>Formulation</b>
<b>663</b>	Enfamil Infant	Pwd	12.4 oz	Standard/term, milk-based, 20kcal/oz
<b>664</b>	Enfamil Infant	Conc	13 oz	Standard/term, milk-based, 20kcal/oz
<b>667</b>	Enfamil AR	Pwd	12.9 oz	Standard/term, milk-based, added rice starch, 20kcal/oz
<b>668</b>	Enfamil Gentlease	Pwd	12.4 oz	Standard/term, milk-based, partially hydrolyzed protein, low lactose, 20kcal/oz
<b>670</b>	Enfamil Reguline	Pwd	12.4 oz	Standard/term, milk-based, partially hydrolyzed, 50%CHO from lactose, added prebiotic, 20kcal/oz
<b>389</b>	Similac Soy Isomil	Pwd	12.4 oz	Standard/term, soy-based, 20 kcal/oz

### **Temporary Formula Alternatives:**

Mead Johnson, the maker of Enfamil, is working to increase the supply of Enfamil products in Texas so that they will be available for WIC families at the start of the contract period. Texas WIC has also strongly encouraged WIC authorized grocery stores to prioritize ordering contract brand products to support adequate availability for WIC participants.

However, based on USDA’s national formula supply data and trend analysis, the USDA has allowed state WIC programs to continue providing alternative formulas as the national formula supply stabilizes. To ensure WIC clients have access to formula, Texas WIC will allow a modified list of alternative brands through October 31, 2022. Additionally, larger container sizes of select Enfamil products will be available through December 31, 2022.

WIC clients using formula should first be issued one of the standard contract formulas, unless staff is already aware of supply concerns in their specific community. When clients are unable to find the contract product on the shelf, the following 2 options will be available to improve access to formula.

1. Texas WIC will authorize a modified list of temporary alternative brands through October 31, 2022.
  - a. Each alternative UPC will be listed under the corresponding contract formula.

- b. UPCs for alternative formulas will be removed from the Approved Product List on the backend. Staff will not have to take action to update the WIC card after October 31 unless the contract formula size that is issued to the card is not available.
- c. Some alternatives that were previously allowed may have been removed because they are not currently in production. Can sizes ranging from 19-22 oz will no longer be authorized.
- d. Alternative products are not available for Enfamil A.R. or Enfamil Reguline because there are no alternate brand equivalents being manufactured at this time.
  - i. For Enfamil, A.R. – explore options in your area for larger sizes. If none is available, refer to HCP to advise.
  - ii. For Enfamil Reguline – may suggest Enfamil Gentlease or refer to HCP.

A complete list of alternatives can be found on the Special WIC food updates page, here: [texashhs.org/wicfoodupdates](http://texashhs.org/wicfoodupdates)

- 2. The client can return to the clinic to have their card updated to one of the following large container options.

<b>Contract Formula – alternative can sizes (approved through Dec 31, 2022)</b>		
<b>Formula Code</b>	<b>Formula</b>	<b>Size</b>
<b>678</b>	Enfamil Infant Pwd	29.4 oz
<b>679</b>	Enfamil NeuroPro Infant Pwd	28.3 oz
<b>680</b>	Enfamil NeuroPro Infant Pwd, Refill Box	31.4 oz
<b>684</b>	Enfamil A.R. Pwd, Refill Box	30.4oz
<b>681</b>	Enfamil Gentlease Pwd	27.7 oz
<b>682</b>	Enfamil NeuroPro Gentlease Pwd	27.4 oz
<b>683</b>	Enfamil NeuroPro Gentlease Pwd, Refill Box	30.4 oz
<b>674</b>	Similac Soy Isomil Pwd	30.8 oz
<b>**675</b>	Alternative Soy Pwd (do not issue past 11/30)	20 oz

- a. Large container sizes of Enfamil and Similac Isomil may not be issued beyond **December 31, 2022**. It is recommended to only issue large sizes in 1-2 month increments due to potential fluctuations in availability.
- b. Alternative Brand Soy (code 675) may not be issued beyond **November 30, 2022**.

- c. These formulas do not require a physical prescription to be issued but must be issued in TXIN using the medical request for approval process. Formula approval should contain documentation that formula was issued due to unavailability of standard WIC can size.
- d. Some large can options include the NeuroPro formulation. These products should not be issued due to client preference, reported intolerance or healthcare provider prescription.

**Therapeutic formulas**

*Moving forward, Texas WIC will use the term therapeutic formula to identify exempt formulas that are prescribed for medical conditions for infants and children. These have previously been referred to as medical or specialty formulas. Therapeutic formulas do not include standard term non-contract formulas.*

The contract change **does not** affect therapeutic formulas. Staff can continue to approve any brand of therapeutic formula listed in the Texas WIC Formulary (effective October 1, 2022) when there is documented medical need and a [Medical Request for Therapeutic Formulas](#) (revised 09/2022). For example, the contract change does not mean that preterm babies must be issued Enfamil Enfacare instead of Similac Neosure – either of these therapeutic formulas is available for the healthcare provider to request.

**Issuing Ready-to-Use (RTU) formulas:**

- 1. Contract RTU Formulas:** Powder or liquid concentrate formulas should still be considered as the first option for issuance as outlined by policy FD 15.0. However, for clients that are unable to find powder or concentrate formula due to ongoing supply issues, staff may issue RTU formula on a case-by-case basis in one-month intervals until supply stabilizes. Document reason for RTU issuance as “formula supply shortage 2022.” RTU formula should not be issued due to participant preference. Starting October 1, 2022, alternative brands of RTU formula will not be authorized.

<b>Contract RTU Formula – follow FD:15.0</b>			
<b>Formula Code</b>	Formula Name	Type	Container Size
<b>665</b>	Enfamil Infant	RTU	32 oz
<b>672</b>	Enfamil NeuroPro Infant	RTU	32 oz
<b>671</b>	Enfamil NeuroPro Infant	RTU	8 oz – 6 pack
<b>669</b>	Enfamil NeuroPro Gentlease	RTU	32 oz
<b>673</b>	Enfamil NeuroPro Gentlease	RTU	8 oz – 6 pack

## **2. Therapeutic RTU Formulas:**

If therapeutic formulas are only available in RTU, staff may approve and issue RTU for exempt formulas for the benefit period (3-4 months) without contacting the doctor. Staff may continue to approve therapeutic RTU formulas for the full length of the prescription if the reason for issuance is listed in FD:15 (i.e. RTU better accommodates a participant's condition or RTU improves a participant's compliance in consuming the product). Document reason for issuance in the Notes section of the Medical Request in TXIN.

### **Formula Resources**

Several new resources containing formula updates effective 10/1 are available for staff. Updated resources are available [here](#).

- Texas WIC Formulary
- Texas WIC Nutrition Assessment Guide
- Texas WIC Maximum quantity Tables for Infants, Women and Children
- Information for Families with Formula Fed Infants\*
- Texas WIC Medical Request for Therapeutic Formula Form (new name)\*
- Help my baby change formula\*

\*These materials can also be accessed through the Texas WIC catalog for download. Due to ongoing paper shortage, there is a minor delay in availability of printed materials.

For questions, contact the Texas WIC formula team at [FormulaTeam@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:FormulaTeam@hhs.texas.gov).