

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers by Participants

Infant Formula Contract Change October 1, 2022

SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

Why is WIC changing to a different brand of formula?

Our contract with Abbott Nutrition (Similac) ends *September 30, 2022*. The United States Department of Agriculture requires the WIC program to complete a bidding process with formula companies and give the contract to the company with the best price. WIC gets a lower price for formula, and uses the money saved to help pay for the other WIC foods. Mead Johnson (Enfamil) offered the best price for cow's milk-based formula and won the contract. WIC will continue offering Similac Isomil (Abbott) for soy-based formula.

MN WIC will *no longer* offer these formulas beginning October 1, 2022.

- Similac Advance
- Similac Sensitive
- Similac Total Comfort
- Similac Spit-Up

WIC benefits with a first day to use in September will be for Similac products. Your benefits with a first day to use of October 1 or later will be for Enfamil formula.

How will this affect current substitutions?

Minnesota WIC is transitioning to a new formula contract with Enfamil products beginning in October 2022. This change will impact formula substitutions in September and October. For participants using Similac Soy Isomil formula, there is no change.

Use the following substitution lists:

- For formula benefits that say **Similac products**, use the [Minnesota WIC Similac Formula Substitutions list](#).
- For formula **benefits that say Enfamil** use the [Minnesota WIC Enfamil Formula Substitutions List](#). You will not be able to purchase Similac Advance, Sensitive, Spit Up, or Total Comfort.
- **For participants using medically prescribed formulas** (Neosure, Enfacare, Nutramigen, Alimentum or Hypoallergenic formula), use [Minnesota WIC Medical Formula Substitutions List](#). Call your WIC clinic if you need one of these products.

What formula will my baby receive from WIC?

MN WIC will begin offering these Enfamil formulas beginning October 1, 2022.

- Enfamil Infant
- Enfamil Gentlease
- Enfamil Reguline
- Enfamil A.R.

Infants receiving soy-based formula will continue to receive Similac Isomil. There is no change if your baby is using a WIC-approved medical formula.

What are the differences between the brands of formula?

Enfamil Infant and Similac Advance meet the energy and nutrition requirements for healthy full-term infants. There are some differences in their ingredients, but the calorie and nutrition content are similar. NeuroPro products contain a prebiotic which can aid in softening stools.

What can I do to help my baby get used to a new formula?

Most babies can change formula easily. Some may need time to adjust. Mix a little of the new formula with the formula your baby uses now. Add more of the new formula every day until your baby is drinking only the new formula. See [Changing Formulas](#).

When I change my baby's formula, what should I expect?

Some babies won't notice a difference. Others might have small changes in their stools (poop) or a little spitting up. Your baby may notice that the formula tastes a little different. It may take a week or so for your baby to get used to the taste of the new formula.

What if my baby is allergic or doesn't do well on the new formula?

An allergy is very unlikely because the formula your baby is changing to is very similar to what they are currently using. Contact your WIC clinic with questions. If your baby has a severe reaction, contact your health care provider immediately.

Will the hospital and my doctor know about the change in infant formulas?

Yes. MN WIC notified hospitals and doctors about the WIC formula changes.

If Similac Isomil is on my benefits before October 1, will substitutions still be allowed after October 1? Or is it only size substitutions?

The Similac Isomil substitutions and alternate sizes will remain the same through December 31, 2022. Note-Enfamil Prosobee will also remain an allowed substitute.

Will the formulas change again next year?

No. Our contract with MeadJohnson (Enfamil) does not end until September 30, 2027.

Reference – Complete Listing of Hyperlinks

Minnesota WIC Similac Formula Substitutions

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/recall/substitutions.pdf>)

[Minnesota WIC Enfamil Formula Substitutions](https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/recall/enfamilsubs.pdf)

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/recall/enfamilsubs.pdf>)

[Minnesota WIC Medical Formula Substitutions](https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/recall/medicalsups.pdf)

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/recall/medicalsups.pdf>)

[Changing Formulas](https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/recall/transitions.pdf)

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/recall/transitions.pdf>)

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