

# WIC Matters Newsletter for Vendors

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## Minnesota WIC Contract Formula Change, October 2022

Beginning October 1, 2022, the contract formula for Minnesota WIC will change from Similac products to Enfamil products for **milk-based infant formula**. For soy-based infant formula, **Similac Isomil will remain the contract formula**.

Some larger Enfamil can sizes and Enfamil formulas that are not part of the contract will be available to participants through December 2022. No substitutions outside Enfamil milk-based products are anticipated to be needed. We are monitoring this situation closely with Mead-Johnson, the manufacturer of Enfamil products, and will update vendors if any information changes.

Similac holds the contract for Minnesota WIC through September 30, 2022, and substitutions under that contract will continue to be allowed, so you may continue offering substitutes for Similac formulas as necessary through September. After October 1, Enfamil products will no longer be allowed for milk-based Similac formula substitutes, because those UPCs will be under the new category for Enfamil products, and they cannot be under two formula categories at the same time. Participants are encouraged to scan formula UPCs in the My Minnesota WIC app to determine if a particular formula is allowed for them on their WIC card.

## Enfamil Products with UPCs for Transition in October

As the transition from Similac to Enfamil milk-based products occurs in the month of October, please ensure that you are increasing stock of Enfamil products and decreasing stock of Similac products. You may want to check with your supplier to see if Enfamil products are considered a special order and therefore may take longer to get in stock at your store. **Mead Johnson began shipping Enfamil formulas to Minnesota suppliers and distributors on August 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are not able to confirm by September 9<sup>th</sup> that you will have Enfamil formula available in your store for the October 1<sup>st</sup> transition date, please let us know by emailing [health.wicvendor@state.mn.us](mailto:health.wicvendor@state.mn.us) no later than September 16<sup>th</sup>. Please include your distributor/supplier name and contact in your email.**

The following formulas will be provided to participants beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>:

12.5 oz powder Enfamil Infant	UPC 300871365421 (replaces Similac Advance)
13 oz concentrate Enfamil Infant	UPC 300871367418 (replaces Similac Advance)
12.9 oz powder Enfamil A.R.	UPC 300870201423 (replaces Similac for Spit Up)
12.4 oz powder Enfamil Gentlease	UPC 300875100691 (replaces Similac Sensitive and Total Comfort)
12.4 oz powder Enfamil Reguline	UPC 300875111321 (replaces Similac Total Comfort but demand will be lower)

For soy-based infant formula, Similac Isomil will remain the contract formula.

Mead Johnson is allowing substitutions only in larger can sizes of Enfamil milk-based products. The following formulas will be available as substitutes **through December 2022**, if the WIC-allowed can size is not available:

Substitutes for Enfamil Infant, 12.5oz powder

29.4 oz powder Enfamil Infant	UPC 300875121276
21.1 oz powder Enfamil Infant	UPC 300875119761
28.3 oz powder Enfamil NeuroPro Infant	UPC 300875121092
31.4 oz powder Enfamil NeuroPro Infant	UPC 300875121115

Substitutes for Enfamil AR, 12.9oz powder

30.4 oz powder Enfamil AR	UPC 300875100967
19.5 oz powder Enfamil AR	UPC 300870201652
27.4 oz powder Enfamil AR	UPC 300875126424

Substitutes for Enfamil Gentlease, 12.4oz powder

27.7 oz powder Enfamil Gentlease	UPC 300875121252
19.9 oz powder Enfamil Gentlease	UPC 300875119785
19.5 oz powder Enfamil NeuroproGentlease	UPC 300875121191
27.4 oz powder Enfamil NeuroproGentlease	UPC 300875121214
30.4 oz powder Enfamil NeuroproGentlease	UPC 300875121238
35.2 oz powder Enfamil NeuroproGentlease	UPC 300875127506

Substitutes for Enfamil Reguline, 12.4oz powder

19.5 oz powder Enfamil Reguline	UPC 300875111574
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These formulas will automatically be available to participants under their current WIC allowed can size on their WIC cards, much like the substitutions for Similac formulas. Because these can sizes are larger, the register will deduct two to three standard size cans of formula from the participant's card for every one can purchased in these sizes. You may order these products, if you are unable to get an adequate supply of the WIC-allowed sizes. **These larger sizes will only be allowed through December 2022.**

## October Transition Month – Similac Products Remain for Some

The transition to Enfamil milk-based products will be gradual through October 2022, and participants will have WIC benefits that include either Similac milk-based formulas or Enfamil milk-based formulas.

- Participants will receive Similac formula benefits in September and have 30 days to use the benefits. This allows those participants to purchase Similac milk-based formulas through the fourth week of October.
- Participants who are issued milk-based formula beginning October 1 will receive Enfamil products.

Through the month of October, some participants' cards will list Similac milk-based formulas and some will list Enfamil milk-based formulas. Participants whose benefits list Similac milk-based formulas will continue to have access to substitutes, except for Enfamil milk-based products, since they cannot be available for both Similac and Enfamil issuance on WIC cards.

Minimum stock changes for formula only will be effective October 1<sup>st</sup>. Enfamil Infant, which will replace Similac Advance in the minimum stock requirements is the only minimum stock requirement for formula, however if a participant has a different formula on their WIC card, stores are expected to order that formula, if it is easily obtained through the store's normal supply chain. For a complete list of minimum stock requirements, you may visit our website: [Minimum Stock Requirements](#)

## APL (Approved Product List) Updating in Anticipation of Change

**It is critical that the APLs for stores are updated in time for the formula change on October 1<sup>st</sup>. If your APL is not updated, your WIC customers will not be able to purchase the Enfamil products allowed under the new contract.** For integrated stores, your POS service provider or corporate office has been notified of this change and that it is of utmost importance that the APLs for stores are updated in time for the formula change on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

For stores with stand-beside terminals, APLs are typically updated automatically overnight and should update with the new

APL on October 1<sup>st</sup>. If your store is unable to process benefits with Enfamil products beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>, you may need to manually update your APL. Those instructions can be found on our website: [APL File Verification Instructions](#)

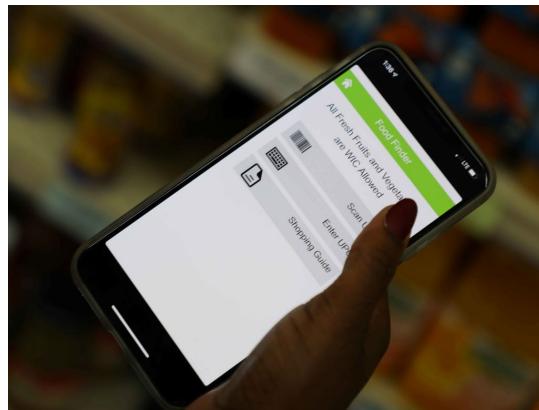


## Communications to Participants on Formula Change

Participants have and continue to receive communications about the formula change and transition. They have been notified through their local WIC clinics and they have received messages in the My Minnesota WIC app about the formula change. They will continue receiving these messages in anticipation of the transition. Minnesota WIC is strongly encouraging participants to scan formula UPCs in their app to ensure that the product they are trying to purchase is available to them on their WIC cards.

As a reminder, anyone can download the My Minnesota WIC app, but to see WIC-

allowed foods and formula available to participants on their WIC cards, **their cards must be registered within the app.**



## Troubleshooting During the Transition

If a participant is trying to purchase a formula with their WIC card, and the register system isn't allowing it, please follow these steps:

1. If the participant has or is able to download the My Minnesota WIC app and register their card with the app, they can scan the UPC on the can of formula to determine if it is the correct formula on their card.
2. If the participant does not have or cannot get the My Minnesota WIC app, print a balance inquiry at your register to see which formula is on the card and available for purchase. If you are unsure how to print a balance inquiry from your register, contact your service provider. Please note that through December, participants will be able to get larger can sizes of Enfamil products that may not be listed on their cards as a substitute for the standard WIC-allowed can size.
3. If the register system still will not allow the formula, and the type of formula has been verified on the WIC card, check with your service provider or corporate office to make sure you have an updated version of the Approved Product List (APL) for your register system. If you have a stand-beside terminal, manually update the APL by following these instructions: [APL File Verification Instructions](#)
4. If you have checked the balance and verified the type of formula on the participant's card, and you have verified that your APL is up to date, please email [health.wicvendor@state.mn.us](mailto:health.wicvendor@state.mn.us). This email inbox is typically monitored during normal business hours on weekdays, but it will be monitored from 7am-8pm on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> to respond to and research issues that are sent in. **Please have the last four digits of the WIC card and UPC on the formula can the**

**participant is trying to purchase, the date and time the participant shopped, and your store name. Submit this information in your email.**

5. If your system is not allowing the formula, it may be because the APL is up to date, but your register system has not yet downloaded the APL (this process can take a day or two and is initiated by your service provider). You may not be able to provide formula to the participant that day, and the participant may need to come back when the register system has downloaded the current APL. We are asking stores and participants to have patience during the formula transition, as we know that unforeseen issues may arise.

### **References – Complete listing of hyperlinks:**

Minimum Stock Requirements:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/vendor/rqrmnts/minstock.html>

APL File Verification Instructions:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/vendor/comm/aplquickref.pdf>

For vendor related questions or concerns, please email [health.wicvendor@state.mn.us](mailto:health.wicvendor@state.mn.us)



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