Infant Formula Decision Process

Consider the following when using the Decision Process Diagram/Flowchart on the next page:

- Breastfeeding is encouraged for all infants. For women who choose not to, or are unable to breastfeed, infant formula is available. Most infants do well on any milk-based formula. These infants should be issued our rebated milk-based formula. All formulas other than our rebated milk-based and soy-based formulas, require the [Oregon Medical Documentation form](#) to be completed by the infant’s health care provider.

- Issues of diarrhea and constipation are not included on the Decision Process diagram. Refer to Lesson 2-1: Gastrointestinal Issues, page 53, in this module for more information on these topics.

- If an infant comes into WIC on a soy-based formula, is tolerating it well and it is the family preference to stay with a soy-based formula, that is a personal preference that WIC can provide.

- This decision tree helps support the Oregon Medical Documentation form and is intended to help WIC staff understand the connection between qualifying conditions and requests for special medical formulas.

- If you have questions regarding a formula, consult your local agency WIC Nutritionist/Dietitian or State Nutrition Consultant.

- WIC does not provide formula for infants while they are hospitalized.

- When possible, consider short term issuance of a special medical formula and work with the health care provider and your local agency WIC Nutritionist/Dietitian to determine appropriateness of transitioning back to our rebated milk-based formula.

- Refer to the Job Aids, Standard Infant Formula and Medical Formulas for more information on the current bid formulas.
**Infant Formula Decision Process**

**Infant’s health status:**
- Known medical condition requiring a special medical formula
- Born before 31 weeks and birth weight of < 4.5 lbs. (2000 grams)

**Vegan or preference for soy based formula?**
- No
- Yes

**Tolerating formula?**
- No
- Yes

**Fussy, gassy or spitting up?**
- No
- Yes

**Explore:**
- Mixing and storage of formula
- Volume of formula offered
- Positioning
- Hunger/fullness cues

**Issue resolved?**
- Yes
- No

**Refer to Job Aid:**
- Medical Formulas for Qualifying Conditions

**Issue bid intolerance formula**
- No
- Yes

**Issue resolved?**
- Yes
- No