

Update from Oregon WIC: Tools for Health Care Providers Managing Infants and Children Affected by Formula Recalls, Shortages

Update from the [March 1, 2022 communication to health care providers \(https://tinyurl.com/FormulaRecallLetter\)](https://tinyurl.com/FormulaRecallLetter):

Formula shortages continue to be a challenge across the state due to the Abbott recall and supply chain shortages. The current situation is unprecedented and has expanded beyond the Similac product line as other formula brands seek to increase production and meet demand. We anticipate this will remain a critical situation for our shared families for the next several months.

Oregon WIC has temporarily added over [50 different formulas \(https://go.usa.gov/xzCCe\)](https://go.usa.gov/xzCCe), in order to meet the needs of WIC participants impacted by the formula recall. This visual tool can be used to help families recognize the formula alternatives. Most of the alternatives can be purchased without the participant needing to have their formula benefits changed by their local WIC office.

However, the formulas that require the [Oregon Medical Documentation Form \(MDF\) \(tinyurl.com/WIC-636\)](https://tinyurl.com/WIC-636), require a new MDF approving the formula alternative which can be time consuming.

Action requested: Please list all acceptable formulas on the MDF when requesting a medical formula from WIC. This will prevent delays in providing infants and children with the medical formulas they need. Below is a table of the medical formula types and names of alternative products to include on the MDF.

Formula type	List all formula names on the Medical Documentation Form
Premature discharge (infants < 4½ pounds)	EnfaCare or NeoSure
Added rice starch	Similac for Spit Up or Enfamil AR
Extensively hydrolyzed protein-infant	Nutramigen, Alimentum, Pregestimil or Extensive HA
Extensively hydrolyzed protein-children	PediaSure Peptide or Peptamen Jr.
Free amino acid-infant	EleCare Infant, Neocate Infant, PurAmino Infant, Alfamino infant
Free amino acid-children	EleCare Jr., Neocate Jr., Neocate Splash, or Alfamino Jr.

During the shortage, WIC is also continuing to promote breastfeeding, and when formula is used, to remind caregivers to avoid homemade formulas, to follow the manufacturer's instructions for correct dilution, and to not provide milk to children under one year of age.

Oregon WIC: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HealthyPeopleFamilies/wic/Pages/index.aspx>

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