



800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 865  
Portland, OR 97232  
Voice: 971-673-0040  
FAX: 971-673-0071  
TTY: 711

**For Medical Providers, Health Care Professionals**

*As a critical public health partner, Oregon WIC is providing the following information impacting our shared patients.*

## WIC Update on Formula Shortage

Thank you to our health care partners for responding quickly to changes that started one year ago. In March 2022, supported by federal waivers, the [Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children \(Oregon WIC\)](#) responded swiftly to the formula recall of Similac formulas by increasing access, formula options and partnerships. Over 136 new formulas and container sizes, including store brands and European formulas, were added to the formulary in such a way that allowed families a greater variety of options at the store registers. We could not have navigated this period without your support.

## Time to Unwind the Changes

On **March 1, 2023**, all alternative formulas for bid Similac products, including competitor brands, store brands and foreign formulas in all container sizes, are no longer an option for WIC participants to purchase. This timeline is determined by USDA.

## Due to continued availability issues of key formulas Oregon WIC has decided to:

- **Add Gentlease in the 12.4 oz size** (Mead Johnson) to our formulary. This formula will require a medical documentation form to obtain. The medical reason can be listed as “intolerance”. This formula is an alternative to two formulas that remain in short supply, Similac Sensitive and Similac Total Comfort.
- **Keep store brand versions of Similac Alimentum and added rice starch formulas.** These formulas will require medical documentation with the brand name and store brand options indicated on the form to provide the greatest options for WIC participants. Reason for the additions: during the Similac recall, Similac for Spit Up was discontinued by Abbott which resulted in a shortage of competitor brands. Similac Alimentum continues to lag in production.
- **Update our medical documentation form** to reflect these changes and to streamline the process for allowable formula options.

The changes to the Oregon [medical documentation form](#) are significant.

---

If you need this information in an alternate format, please contact WIC at (971) 673-0040.

**Action requested of healthcare providers:**

- **Update** any downloaded or print versions of Oregon WIC medical documentation form
- **Discard** any medical documentation forms dated 2022 or earlier
- **Fully complete** the medical documentation form to reduce back and forth communication between WIC clinics and the provider offices
- Providers will need to **mark all acceptable formulas** on the new forms