



**AUG 24 2011**

Dear Physician:

The Ohio Department of Health subscribes to the infant feeding recommendations made by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Committee on Nutrition. The Ohio Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) encourages you to join us in promoting and supporting breast milk as the optimal food and the primary feeding choice for the first 12 months of life and beyond for all infants.

For those mother and infant dyads that choose not to breastfeed exclusively, iron-fortified formula is available. On October 1, 2011, Ohio WIC will continue to offer Similac Advance with Early Shield and Similac Soy Isomil as the standard milk-based and soy-based formulas for those infants for whom special formulas have not been prescribed. For infants who are diagnosed with severe lactose maldigestion, standard milk-based, low-lactose, Similac Sensitive will continue to be available with a valid prescription.

Effective October 1, 2011, older formulations of Similac Advance and Isomil Advance will not be available from the Ohio WIC program.

As a reminder, special formulas issued by WIC must be prescribed for their specific nutrient content or for treatment of a medical condition. Special formulas may have a modified protein, amino acid or nitrogen composition, altered fat source, altered carbohydrate source, and/or decreased residue. An updated **Ohio WIC Approved Formulas** document is enclosed that describes WIC's formulary and intended uses.

Prescription requests for **special formulas** must contain all of the following information:

- participant's name and date of birth;
- amount of formula to be provided per day (**must be a specific volume**);
- intended length of use of the formula (not to exceed six months);
- applicable ICD9 code and documented medical diagnosis (**should relate to the special formula requested**);
- name of formula;
- any contraindications for other supplemental foods that WIC provides;
- signature, credentials, and telephone number of the physician or nurse practitioner;  
and
- date prescribed.

In order for WIC to have all of the documentation required by USDA regulations, use of the WIC prescription form is **required** when prescribing special formulas for WIC participants. A fillable electronic version of the form is available on request and will also be posted online via the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (Ohio AAP) and the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians (OAFP) webpage.

All required items must be documented before a special formula can be considered for issuance by the WIC office. WIC health professionals are licensed dietitians and registered nurses who will continue to work with physicians to obtain any missing data to provide expedient service to participants. The health professionals in the WIC clinics make their decisions on acceptable formulas and foods based on WIC policy and an individualized nutrition assessment. Requested information is used to ensure that the most appropriate formula and supplemental foods are provided.

Please ensure that you are using the most current WIC prescription with the **effective date of October 1, 2011**. The most current Ohio WIC Prescribed Formula and Food form contains revisions to special formula offerings.

- Additions: KetoCal 4:1 Liquid, PediaSure 1.5 Calorie, PediaSure 1.5 Calorie with Fiber, and Peptamen Junior with Prebio<sup>1</sup>
- Removal: KetoVolve

WIC reserves the right to deny a special formula request if the formula:

- is not part of the approved WIC formulary,
- prescription does not include the minimum information outlined in this letter,
- does not meet WIC requirements for issuance, or
- is prescribed solely for weight management or nonspecific “intolerance.”

Thank you for your continued support of the WIC program. If you should have any questions, please contact your local WIC office.

Sincerely,



Theodore E. Wymyslo, MD  
Director of Health

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Enclosures