



September 26, 2024

Dear Healthcare Provider:

The Ohio Department of Health supports 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 breastmilk as the optimal food and primary feeding choice for the first 6 months of life, introducing appropriate complementary foods at about 6 months of age, and continuing breastfeeding for two years or beyond.

WIC recognizes there are families of infants who cannot or choose not to breastfeed exclusively and children who require pediatric formulas to supplement or replace food intake. For those families, supplemental iron-fortified infant formula and selected pediatric formulas are available through Ohio WIC. Each year there is a review of submissions for specialized products to be added to Ohio WIC's formulary. Beginning October 1, 2024, the following products will be available for issuance from Ohio WIC with a valid prescription:

- **Compleat Pediatric Original 1.5** is a nutritionally complete, higher calorie plant-based and vegan formula free of common food allergens for children with increased calorie needs and multiple food allergies and sensitivities. It is indicated for children over 1 year of age with a medical condition requiring tube feeding, full diet, or oral supplementation and provides 45 calories per fluid ounce.
- **Kate Farms Pediatric Blended Meals** is a nutritionally complete, plant based and vegan formula free of common food allergens for children with multiple food allergies and sensitivities. It is indicated for children over 1 year of age with a medical condition requiring tube feeding, full diet, or oral supplementation. It provides 30 calories per fluid ounce and contains 20% of fat as medium chain triglycerides (MCT).
- **Neocate Syneo Junior** is a nutritionally complete, 100% amino acid-based formula for children with gastrointestinal impairment or food allergies. It is indicated for children over 1 year of age with a medical condition requiring tube feeding, full diet, or oral supplementation. It provides 30 calories and contains 34% of fat as MCT.

The *Ohio WIC Prescribed Formula and Food Request Form* has been revised appropriately. Please ensure that you are using the most current form with the effective date of October 2024. As a reminder, special formulas issued by WIC must be prescribed for their specific nutrient content related to treatment of a medical condition. Prescription requests for special formulas must still contain all the following information:

- Participant's name and date of birth.
- Amount of formula to be provided per day (must be a specific, measurable volume).
- Intended length of use of the formula (not to exceed six months).
- Documented medical diagnosis (must 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 prescribing health care provider.
- Date prescribed.

WIC cannot approve a special formula request if the formula:

- Prescription does not include the minimum information outlined in this letter.
- Does not meet WIC requirements for issuance.
- Is prescribed solely for weight management or nonspecific "intolerance."

WIC health professionals will work with healthcare providers to obtain any missing data and provide expedient service to participants. The health professionals in the WIC clinics make decisions related to the issuance of formulas and foods based on WIC policy and an individualized nutrition assessment.

Healthcare providers may select the top two to three formulas that meet the participant's nutritional needs indicating first, second, and third recommended formulas, as appropriate. WIC health professionals will work collaboratively with WIC participants to determine which option will be issued to the WIC Nutrition Card.

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

Sincerely,

Corey J. Shepherd

Corey J. Shepherd, Director, Ohio WIC Program

CJS/KMD/kmd