



January 11, 2021

Dear Health Care Provider:

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 breastmilk as the optimal food and primary feeding choice for the first 6 months of life, and continuing breastfeeding with complementary foods until 12 months and beyond for all children.

For those mother and infant dyads who cannot or choose not to breastfeed exclusively, supplemental formula is available through Ohio WIC. Ohio WIC will be adding Similac Sensitive 32 ounce ready to feed (RTF) to the existing formulary, effective January 11, 2021. Similac Sensitive RTF is a 20 calorie per ounce, nutritionally complete, Kosher/Halal, very low lactose formula suitable for infants with lactose sensitivity.

Please note that Similac Sensitive is currently only available from Ohio WIC in RTF. If this product is requested, the medical diagnosis must be relevant to the product. Additionally, Ohio WIC has specific policies related to the issuance of RTF products, which are based on regulations enforced by the United States Department of Agriculture, which **must** be adhered to.

Per Ohio WIC Policy, RTF products can be provided if:

- the water supply has been determined to be unsafe;
- the ability of the caregiver to properly mix concentrate or powder formula is in question;
- for premature, low birth weight, or otherwise immunocompromised infants; or
- the participant has a medically relevant health condition which necessitates the use of RTF formula (i.e. continuous tube feeds).

RTF formula (including Similac Sensitive) cannot be issued for basic tolerance issues or participant preference.

Ohio WIC's 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 January 11, 2021.

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 of 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 health care provider; and
- date prescribed.

WIC reserves the right to deny 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, or
- is prescribed solely for weight management or nonspecific “intolerance.”

WIC health professionals will work with health care 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.

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

Sincerely,

Sayeh S. Shirvani

Sayeh S. Shirvani
Director, Ohio WIC Program

SSS/KMD/kmd