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**#10-148**

**TO:** WIC Regional Directors  
WIC Local Agency Directors

**FROM:** Linda Brumble, Unit Manager  
Nutrition Education/Clinic Services Unit  
Nutrition Services Section

**DATE:** October 29, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Similac Sensitive for Spit Up and Toddler Formula Supply Issues

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**Similac Sensitive for Spit Up Supply:**

Abbott is experiencing supply shortages of Similac Sensitive for Spit Up powder 12.3 oz in some areas of the state. Supplies are expected to improve by the second week of November 2010. In the meantime, if clients report problems finding this formula or for new issuances, staff may select from the following options:

- 1) Have participants check on availability prior to shopping. They may need to contact several stores in your area to find the product.
- 2) Participants may change their benefits to any other contract formula. Similac Sensitive powder or concentrate will be the closest in composition.
- 3) Participants can adjust their benefits to receive cans of Similac Sensitive for Spit Up out of returned formula stock (if available). This must be done on their card and may result in a change in benefits due to proration. Contact the formula pager at (512) 499-6814 if there are questions about how to do this.
- 4) Participants may change their benefits to Similac Sensitive for Spit Up RTU. Inform them that this option is only due to the supply issue and not for long term use. Issue RTU for October and/or November followed by powder for advance issuance. Advise participants to check on store availability prior to shopping. Abbott reports good supplies of RTU in general but that may vary in different areas of the state.
- 5) Please remind participants that all changes to benefits will result in proration and we are unable to compensate them for any cans they will lose. They may also choose to wait until supplies improve and purchase an alternate brand out of pocket until they can redeem their full benefits at the store.

**Similac Go and Grow Milk/Soy Supply Update:**

The recent recall of Similac formula affected the supply of both Milk and Soy Go and Grow formulas. These formulas are not expected to be back in stock before early 2011. Alternative formulas may be issued for 3 months at a time. Use the following criteria when determining which product to issue:

- 1) Similac Advance may be substituted for Go and Grow Milk, and Similac Sensitive Isomil Soy may be substituted for Go and Grow Soy. Obtain approval from the healthcare provider (HCP), if possible. If you are unable to reach them, clinic staff should fax a written notification to the HCP that this substitute will be made until the formulas are available again.
- 2) If the HCP does not approve of the substitute and/or an alternate toddler formula is requested, a new prescription or verbal order is required for the substitute formula. Issue for 3 months until you receive notification that Go and Grow is back in stock.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Cathy Plyler, Clinic Services Branch, at (512) 341-4577 or [cathy.plyler@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:cathy.plyler@dshs.state.tx.us) or Maricela Montoya, Clinic Services Branch, at (512) 431-4578 or [maricela.montoya@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:maricela.montoya@dshs.state.tx.us).