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#22-049

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

**FROM:** Amanda Hovis, Director  
Nutrition Education/Clinic Services Unit  
Nutrition Services Section

**DATE:** July 1, 2022

**SUBJECT: Transition of Milk-Based Infant Formula Contract to Mead Johnson**

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On October 1, 2022, the milk-based infant formula contract will change from Abbott Laboratories, the makers of Similac, to Mead Johnson, the makers of Enfamil. All WIC participants receiving standard milk-based infant formulas will be transitioned to Enfamil products for benefits beginning October 2022. The Texas WIC program will no longer allow issuance of standard Similac milk-based products effective October 1, 2022, even with a medical request. The contract for soy-based infant formula will remain with Abbott Laboratories as Similac Soy Isomil.

### **Issuing the New Formula**

New contract formula codes for Enfamil products will be available for issuance on July 1, 2022 with an active date of October 1, 2022.

<b>Formula Code</b>	<b>Formula Name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Container Size</b>
<b>663</b>	<b>Enfamil Infant</b>	Pwd	12.4 oz
<b>664</b>	<b>Enfamil Infant</b>	Conc	13 oz
<b>665</b>	<b>Enfamil Infant</b>	RTU	32 oz
<b>667</b>	<b>Enfamil AR</b>	Pwd	12.9 oz
<b>668</b>	<b>Enfamil Gentlease</b>	Pwd	12.4 oz
<b>669</b>	<b>Enfamil Gentlease Neuropro</b>	RTU	32 oz
<b>670</b>	<b>Enfamil Reguline</b>	Pwd	12.4 oz

Benefits will begin to transition in TXIN on July 1, 2022 for advance issuance of October benefits.

1. TXIN will automatically transition participants who are receiving Similac benefits to the comparable Enfamil code, based on the below table. This means that the Similac formula in the food package will end date on 09/30/2022 and a new formula line item will automatically generate with the comparable Enfamil formula with a start date of 10/01/2022.

<b>Similac Formula, code</b>	<b>Change to Enfamil Formula, code</b>
Similac Advance Pwd, 414	Enfamil Infant Pwd, 633
Similac Advance Conc, 388	Enfamil Infant Conc, 664
Similac Advance RTU, 365	Enfamil Infant RTU, 665
Similac Sensitive Pwd, 619	Enfamil Gentlease Pwd, 668
Similac Sensitive RTU, 620	Enfamil Gentlease Neuropro RTU, 669
Similac Total Comfort Pwd, 622	Enfamil Gentlease Pwd, 668
Similac for Spit Up, 621	Enfamil AR Pwd 667

2. Staff will have to manually transition participants in TXIN who are:
  - a. Currently issued a temporary large can size.
  - b. Need to change or exchange formula between 07/01/2022 through 09/30/2022.
  - c. New to WIC between 07/01/2022 through 09/30/2022.
3. Local agency directors may, at their discretion, allow clerical staff and WCSs the TXIN roles to manually change formula benefits as long as the change is listed on the [Formula Crosswalk-Similac to Enfamil](#). Any change outside of the crosswalk must be referred to the CA or FC-WCS. This temporary exception to Policy FD:16.0 will only be authorized from 07/01/2022 through 09/30/2022.

### **Staff Resources**

The following training documents and job aides are available at this link: [Formula Contract Transition Training and Job Aides](#). Additional documents will be added as available.

1. Basic Contract Formula Flow Chart
2. Contract Equivalents with Pictures
3. Formula Crosswalk – Similac to Enfamil
4. Guide to Common Client Questions
5. Infant Formula Contract Transition Overview – recorded training
6. Part 1, TXIN – Infant Formula Contract Transition Overview (ppt)
7. Staff FAQ

A recorded version of the Infant Formula Contract Transition Overview (TXIN) is available in the LMS. Staff can register for the training [here](#).

Updates and any additional instructions will be communicated, as needed, through the Texas WIC Express, director's emails and webinars, and TXIN Alerts.

Approval resources, including the Texas WIC Medical Request for Formula, will be updated and made available in September.

For any questions or concerns, please email [FormulaTeam@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:FormulaTeam@hhs.texas.gov).

Please use corresponding Enfamil code when selecting October benefits, unless a need for alternate formula is indicated by the FC-WCS or CA. RTU formula issuance should revert to powder beginning 10/1 unless client meets criteria for RTU issuance outlined in policy FD 15.0

Similac Name	Code	Enfamil Name	Code
Similac Advance 12.4oz PWD	414	Enfamil Infant 12.5oz PWD	663
Similac Advance 20.6 oz PWD	653	Enfamil Infant 12.5oz PWD	663
Similac Advance 30.8 oz PWD	654	Enfamil Infant 12.5oz PWD	663
Similac Pro Advance 20.6 oz PWD	655	Enfamil Infant 12.5oz PWD	663
Similac Pro Advance 30.8 oz PWD	656	Enfamil Infant 12.5oz PWD	663
Similac Advance 13oz CON	388	Enfamil Infant 13oz CON	664
<b>Similac Advance 32oz RTU</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>Enfamil Infant 32 oz RTU</b>	<b>665</b>

Similac Name	Code	Enfamil Name	Code
Similac Sensitive 12.5 oz PWD	619	Enfamil Gentlease 12.4oz PWD	668
Similac Sensitive PWD 20.1 oz PWD	648	Enfamil Gentlease 12.4oz PWD	668
Similac Sensitive PWD 29.8 oz PWD	649	Enfamil Gentlease 12.4oz PWD	668
Similac Pro Sensitive PWD 20.1 oz PWD	650	Enfamil Gentlease 12.4oz PWD	668
Similac Pro Sensitive PWD 29.8 oz PWD	651	Enfamil Gentlease 12.4oz PWD	668
<b>Similac Sensitive 32 oz RTU</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>Enfamil Gentlease Neuropro 32oz RTU</b>	<b>669</b>

Similac Name	Code	Enfamil Name	Code
Similac for Spit Up 12.5 oz PWD	621	Enfamil A.R. 12.9oz PWD	667
Similac for Spit Up 19.5oz PWD	652	Enfamil A.R. 12.9oz PWD	667

Similac Name	Code	Enfamil Name	Code
Similac Total Comfort 12.6oz PWD	622	Enfamil Gentlease 12.4oz PWD	668
Similac PRO Total Comfort 20.1 oz PWD	646	Enfamil Gentlease 12.4oz PWD	668
Similac PRO Total Comfort 29.8 oz PWD	647	Enfamil Gentlease 12.4oz PWD	668

## **Change in Milk-Based Contract Formula, July 2022 Common Client Questions and Answers**

### **Why is the formula I get on WIC changing?**

The WIC program is required to have a contract with one specific formula company to help keep costs down. We renew the contract every 5 years. The award for the contract from October 2022 – September 2027 for milk-based formula is Mead Johnson, the makers of Enfamil. The soy-based formula will continue to be with Abbott, the makers of Similac.

The milk-based formulas offered under the new contract include:

- Enfamil Infant
- Enfamil Gentlease
- Enfamil A.R.
- Enfamil Reguline

#### Additional information for staff:

Other standard Enfamil milk-based infant formulas such as Enfamil Enspire, Enfamil Neuropro and more are not offered under the new contract and will not be available for issuance.

### **Why could I get any brand of formula over the summer and now I have to buy one brand?**

The WIC program is required to have a contract with one specific formula company to help keep costs down. After the recall from Abbott and the nationwide formula shortage, the USDA allowed WIC programs flexibilities to be able to offer a wide variety of formula to help make sure families were more likely to find a type of formula that would meet their baby's needs. As the supply of formula gets better, we will have to go back to the one contract company for milk-based formula. In September, this will be Similac products. In October, the contract will change to be Enfamil products.

#### Additional information for staff:

The state office will keep staff informed if there is any change to the end date of August 31, 2022 for alternative brands of formula. This will depend on the overall availability of formula.

### **What can I do if my baby has problems with Enfamil brand formulas?**

Most babies can change from one brand of formula to another without much problem. It is a good idea to only buy 1-2 cans of formula in the beginning to make sure the formula will work for your baby. In the first few days on a new formula, some babies will have a slight change in the color of their stool or may drink a little less than normal. This is normal and should get better in a few days.

## **Change in Milk-Based Contract Formula, July 2022 Common Client Questions and Answers**

Remember, many babies experience spitting up, gas, fussiness, or have hard or infrequent stools from time to time. This is not always because of a formula change.

### Additional information for staff:

A helpful resource for families who are nervous about changing is here: [Help Your Baby Change to a New Formula \(texas.gov\)](https://www.texas.gov/help-your-baby-change-to-a-new-formula)

### **What if my baby has a serious problem after changing formulas?**

If your baby has new or worsening diarrhea, blood in the stool, forceful vomiting, swelling, rash, weight loss or excessive crying, call your baby's doctor right away. If your baby does not tolerate the formula, the WIC program can exchange any unopened, unused cans of formula for a different type of Enfamil formula. If your doctor wants you on a specialty formula, like a hypoallergenic formula, you will need a prescription.

### Additional information for staff:

If a baby has been taking Similac brand formulas without any problems, it is highly unlikely that the baby will have an allergic reaction or any other type of reaction to Enfamil brand formulas.

If the baby has any of the following symptoms it is important to refer the parent/guardian to the baby's health care provider immediately to get an accurate diagnosis and plan for treatment.

- Severe diarrhea
- Dark, tarry stools with blood
- Excessive vomiting
- Skin rash, dermatitis
- Chronic, excessive congestion

### **Can I go back to Similac brand formulas if my baby doesn't like Enfamil?**

Starting October 1, 2022, the WIC program will only offer Enfamil brands. Enfamil offers a few different options that are very similar to Similac products. Most babies will accept and do well on Enfamil formulas, even if it takes a few days to adjust.

### Additional Information for Staff:

After October 1st, 2022, Similac milk-brand formulas will no longer be available for issuance even with a medical prescription. If the nationwide formula shortage is still a concern, the state office will work with USDA and Mead Johnson to explore alternative solutions.

## **Change in Milk-Based Contract Formula, July 2022 Common Client Questions and Answers**

### **How long will we be using Enfamil brand milk-based formulas?**

The new contract term will be from October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2027.

### **Do I prepare the formulas the same way as before?**

The liquid concentrate and the powder formulas are prepared the same way you prepare the Similac products. General mixing instructions can be found at the following link: [How to Mix Infant Formula | Texas WIC](#). Additional instructions may be found on each individual can.

### **Will I get the same amount of formula?**

Yes, the formula amounts for Enfamil are the same as Similac.

#### Additional information for staff:

Formula packages are based on a maximum monthly allowance by reconstituted ounces. The reconstituted ounce amounts for the milk-based Enfamil products are the same as the reconstituted ounce amounts for Similac milk-based formulas. This means the number of cans issued each benefit month will remain the same as before.

### **Can I start getting Enfamil before October 1<sup>st</sup>? My baby has already tried it and I don't want to change formulas again.**

Our contract is with Similac until September 30. Right now, we are allowing families to purchase other brands of formula because of flexibility that the USDA has provided during the national supply shortage. If supply is back to normal by the end of August, WIC clients will only be able to receive Similac brand in September. We cannot issue Enfamil before then, even with a doctor's prescription.

#### Additional information for staff:

The state office will keep staff informed if there is any change to the end date of August 31, 2022 for alternative brands of formula. This will depend on the overall supply.

## Formula Contract Transition, July 2022 Staff FAQs

### **What resources are available to staff about the transition in TXIN?**

The following resources are available in Egnyte here:

[Formula Contract Transition Training and Job Aide](#)

Part 1-TXIN Infant Formula Contract Transition Overview webinar  
Recorded training available through Texas WIC LMS [Register here](#).  
Slides available at above Egnyte link.

Part 2 training will be recorded and available in late July.

Additional staff resource will be available over the next few months, such as:

1. Updated Texas WIC Formulary
2. Updated Maximum Formula Quantity Table
3. Updated high calorie mixing instructions available through State Agency
4. Formula Change form (fax form)

### **When will documents be available for health care providers and client?**

The following resources will become available to communicate changes to the public between now and September. Keep an eye out for updates on the Texas WIC Express.

1. Information for Families with Formula Fed Infants flyer
2. Revised Texas WIC Medical Request for Therapeutic Formula form
3. How do I Change my Baby's Formula flyer (updated flyer and new photo webpage)
4. FY 23 Approved Foods Guide Formula Insert
5. Updated shopping app communication
6. Updated messaging on TexasWIC.org for clients and health partners

### **What will TXIN do automatically and what will I need to do manually?**

- [Automatic transition](#) – Participants already enrolled with previous issuance of contract formulas.
- [Manual transition](#) – New participants, participants receiving large size cans of contract formulas, and formula exchanges. When formula exchanges happen between July 1st and September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, resequencing may be needed to ensure the future contract formulas are issued.

## **Formula Contract Transition, July 2022 Staff FAQs**

### **If a family was automatically issued Enfamil Infant but wants Enfamil Gentlease instead what should I do?**

Encourage the family to consider trying the formula if they have not already. However, it is fine to issue one of the other Enfamil formulas if they prefer. A failed trial is not needed to issue another kind of contract formula.

### **Do I need to document in VENA why a family wants to change from one type of a contract formula to a different contract formula (ie. from Enfamil Infant to Enfamil Gentlease)?**

No, it is not required to document the reason in VENA.

### **If a child over age 1 has an approved Medical Request for a Similac brand formula (example Similac Sensitive) for a valid medical reason, what should we do?**

Contact the HCP to inform them of the brand change and to obtain verbal approval to issue one of the new contract formulas instead. Keep in mind this will only be necessary for October benefits and later. In the event that you cannot reach the HCP, please contact the [FormulaTeam@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:FormulaTeam@hhs.texas.gov).