



October 13, 2020

Re: January 2021 Changes to Tennessee WIC Alternate Contract Formulas

Dear Healthcare Provider,

The Tennessee Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) continues to promote and support breastfeeding as the normal and healthiest way to feed infants. For infants who are not exclusively breastfed, WIC helps families by providing supplemental formula during the first year of life.

Tennessee's standard contract formulas are Abbott Similac Advance (cow's milk-based) and Soy Isomil (soy-based). WIC also provides standard alternate contract formulas: Abbott Similac Sensitive, Spit-Up, and Total Comfort. Similac Advance and Soy Isomil are 20 calorie/fluid ounce formulas. Similac Sensitive, Spit-Up, and Total Comfort have provided 19 calories/fluid ounce since 2014.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires medical documentation for any formula purchased with WIC funds that does not provide a minimum of 20 calories/ounce at standard dilution. Healthcare providers document their approval for these formulas by completing a "Tennessee Request for WIC Therapeutic Products and Supplemental Foods" and sending it to the participant's local Health Department.

Abbott is changing the caloric density of Similac Sensitive, Spit-Up, and Total Comfort from 19 calories/fluid ounce to 20 calories/fluid ounce. As a result, these three formulas will soon meet the USDA criteria for a standard formula.

The Abbott reformulations will occur in phases. The transition will be gradual. Abbott plans for the updated Sensitive and Total Comfort to begin appearing on store shelves in October 2020. Spit-Up is expected to begin appearing on store shelves in December 2020.

Effective January 1, 2021 Tennessee WIC will no longer require approval from a Healthcare Provider for Similac Sensitive, Spit-Up, or Total Comfort formulas. A completed "Tennessee Request for WIC Therapeutic Products and Supplements Foods" form will no longer be required for these formulas.

The can size (powder) for these three formulas will change, but the can yield will remain the same at 90 fluid ounces/can. WIC participants will be eligible for the same number of cans per benefit cycle as they were for the 19 calorie versions of these formulas.

There have been no changes to our standard contract formulas: Similac Advance and Soy Isomil.

We appreciate your assistance in making this change. If you have questions about this, please contact Alesha Reeves at Alesha.Reeves@tn.gov or 615-741-0227.



Sincerely,

Alesha Reeves

Alesha Reeves
State WIC Director
Supplemental Nutrition Programs