



Arizona WIC Program Formula Change Questions and Answers for Physicians Soy-Based Standard Infant Formula Only

WIC believes breastmilk is the best nutrition for babies. Breastfeeding is recommended for at least 12 months or as long as desired by both baby and mom. Breastmilk is the best source of nutrition for infants, especially during this time of transition.

If *any* of your patients need breastfeeding help, please have them call 1-800-833-4642 for 24-hour breastfeeding assistance. If they are enrolled in the WIC Program, they can also get help in person at a local WIC clinic.

1. Why is WIC changing to a different brand of soy infant formula?

- WIC is required to give clients the infant formula that has the best **contract** price. The more WIC saves on formula costs, the more participants WIC can serve.
- All infant formulas provided by WIC are approved for infant feeding and meet government-regulated nutrient content standards.
- Similac Advance will remain as the standard milk-based formula.

2. When will the change take effect?

- The change is effective October 1, 2015.
- **Enfamil ProSobee** will be given through September 30, 2015.
- **Gerber Good Start Soy** will be given starting October 1, 2015.

3. Starting October 1st, what formula will my patient receive from WIC?

- If the baby is on Enfamil ProSobee, they will get Gerber Good Start Soy. If they are on any other formula, they will continue on the same formula.
- Milk-based formula (such as Similac Advance), as well as special formulas, will not be affected by this change.

WIC Formula Changes: Questions and Answers for Physicians (Continued)

4. What formulas are considered special formulas?

- Starting October 1st, any formula other than Similac Advance and Gerber Good Start Soy will be considered a special formula.
- Special formulas require a completed medical documentation form in order to be issued.

5. What is needed on the medical documentation form so the WIC program can provide the special formula?

- Diagnosis, formula name, formula type (i.e., ready to feed, powder, concentrate), amount per day, and duration as well as any additional instructions (if needed). Please refer to the WIC website www.azwic.gov for medical documentation requirements and for the updated form.

6. My patient is doing well on Enfamil ProSobee. Does she/he have to change formulas?

- Yes, the baby will have to change formulas in order to receive formula from WIC. WIC believes the baby will continue to do well on Gerber Good Start Soy.

7. How do I help my patient transition to the new brand of formula?

Newborns and partially breastfed infants

- WIC believes breastmilk is the best nutrition for babies. ***Breastfeeding assistance is available at the WIC clinic or through the 24-hour hotline at 1-800-833-4642.*** Knowing that there will be some changes in the formula in October, you may want to promote breastfeeding, as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Fully formula fed infants

- WIC staff is trained to help with non-medical transition issues, such as gassiness and fussiness. If the patient has a diagnosed medical condition and requires a special formula, WIC will need a completed medical documentation form for the special formula to be provided.

WIC Formula Changes: Questions and Answers for Physicians (Continued)

8. If I write a prescription today for Enfamil ProSobee, will my patient be able to continue on that formula after October 1, 2015?

- No. After October 1, 2015, healthy babies with no medical issues will be transitioned to Gerber Good Start Soy. Enfamil ProSobee will be allowed only through September 30, 2015.
- However, if the baby is on Enfamil ProSobee and has a diagnosed medical condition in which a change in the infant’s formula could put the infant at a medical and nutritional risk for a poor health outcome, the formula can be provided with a medical documentation form detailing the reason and diagnosed medical condition in addition to State and Local WIC Nutritionist approval.
- Gassiness, fussiness, formula intolerance, and spitting up are not acceptable medical conditions for continuing Enfamil ProSobee instead of transitioning to Gerber Good Start Soy.

9. If I write a prescription today for Gerber Good Start Soy, will my patient be able to receive it prior to October 1, 2015?

- Your patient will **NOT** receive the Gerber Good Start Soy prior to October 1st since the State is still contracted with Mead Johnson for soy infant formula through September 30, 2015.
- Beginning October 1, 2015, healthy babies on soy formula with no medical issues will be transitioned to Gerber Good Start Soy.
- However, if the baby has a diagnosed medical condition in which a change in the infant’s formula could put the infant at a medical and nutritional risk for a poor health outcome, Gerber Good Start Soy can be provided with a medical documentation form in addition to State and Local WIC Nutritionist approval. Gassiness, fussiness, and spitting up are not acceptable medical conditions for issuing Gerber Good Start Soy prior to October 1, 2015.

10. How similar are Enfamil ProSobee and Gerber Good Start Soy?

- The below chart reflects the similar composition of Enfamil ProSobee and Gerber Good Start Soy.

Enfamil ProSobee powder	Gerber Good Start Soy powder
Soy protein Isolate	Enzymatically Hydrolyzed Soy Protein Isolate
Vegetable oil (palm olein, soy, coconut, and high oleic sunflower oils)	Vegetable oil (palm olein, soy, coconut, and high-oleic safflower or high oleic sunflower oils)
Protein 10% Carbohydrate: 44% Fat: 46%	Protein: 10% Carbohydrate: 42% Fat: 48%

WIC Formula Changes: Questions and Answers for Physicians (Continued)

11. Will my patient receive the same amount of formula?

- Yes, the amount of formula provided will remain the same.

12. What if my patient currently receiving Enfamil ProSobee doesn't do well on Gerber Good Start Soy?

Newborns and partially breastfed infants

- WIC believes breastmilk is the best nutrition for babies. ***Breastfeeding assistance is available at the WIC clinic or through the 24-hour hotline at 1-800-833-4642.*** Knowing that there will be some changes in the formula in October, you may want to promote breastfeeding, as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Fully formula fed infants

- WIC staff is trained to help with non-medical transition issues, such as gassiness and fussiness. If the patient has a diagnosed medical condition and requires a special formula, WIC will need a medical documentation form or prescription. Please refer to the Arizona WIC website for more information on formula prescriptions.
<http://azdhs.gov/prevention/azwic/physicians/index.php#documentation>

13. Whom do I contact if I have further questions?

- For the Arizona WIC Program, contact Karen Henry, RDN, Food Package Specialist, at 602-364-0451 or karen.henry@azdhs.gov.