



Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders

Renee Mallory, RN, BSN, Interim Secretary of Health

Jennifer Dillaha, MD, Director

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Dear Health Care Provider:

Effective October 1, 2023, the Arkansas WIC Program will implement a new 3-year formula rebate contract with Abbott Laboratories. For the past five years, the contract has been awarded to Nestle Gerber; therefore, this new contract represents a significant change for many of our WIC families. We are writing to ask for your assistance in providing services to your patients who are also participants in the Arkansas Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

While WIC strongly encourages and supports breastfeeding, we also provide infant formula to those families who choose to formula feed. Under the new contract with Abbott Laboratories, the following formulas will be provided:

**Similac Advance
Similac Soy Isomil**

**Similac Sensitive
Similac Total Comfort**

We encourage you to recommend one of these contract formulas for your patients who receive formula through the Arkansas WIC Program; this will greatly contain overall food costs and allow the Program to serve more participants.

Participants currently receiving Gerber Good Start Gentle will be automatically switched to Similac Advance, with the option of switching to Similac Sensitive or Similac Total Comfort. Participants currently receiving Gerber Good Start SoothePro will be automatically switched to Similac Total Comfort, with the option of switching to Similac Advance or Similac Sensitive. Participants currently receiving Gerber Good Start Soy will be automatically switched to Similac Soy Isomil. Most infants will be able to tolerate one of the contract formulas with guidance on how to change formulas gradually. For those infants who have a medical diagnosis, an exempt/special formula may be prescribed with appropriate medical documentation.

Thank you for helping us assist your patients in preparation for these upcoming changes in contract formulas.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dillaha, MD
Arkansas Department of Health Director
Arkansas State Health Officer

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Arkansas WIC Program Director
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