



## **WIC Formula Transition: Contract Formula Change | FAQs for Health Care Providers**

***Beginning with October 2024 benefits, Oklahoma WIC will offer Similac infant formulas instead of Gerber infant formulas.***

### **Why is Oklahoma WIC's contract formula brand changing?**

- All WIC programs in the U.S. are required to have an infant formula contract in place for cost control. Our contract with Gerber will expire on September 30, 2024, and our new contract with Similac will begin on October 1, 2024.

### **Will you offer comparable formulas on the new contract?**

- All infant formulas in the U.S. must meet the same nutrition and quality standards set by the FDA. Both Gerber and Similac brand formulas have similar products to meet your patient's needs (i.e., milk-based, low-lactose/partially broken-down proteins, and soy-based).

### **What if my patient has been doing well on Gerber formula? Can they continue on Gerber?**

- Unless medically contraindicated, all Oklahoma WIC infants receiving formula will change from Gerber to Similac brand formulas as outlined above.
- If your patient has a significant medical need to remain on their current brand of formula after September 2024, you may fill out an [Exception Request for Formula form](#) and submit to their WIC clinic for consideration. If you are unfamiliar with this process, please reference the form in its entirety for details.

### **If my patient has an approved Exception Request for Formula form in place for a non-Gerber brand formula (ex: Alimentum, Nutramigen, Neosure, etc.), do I need to fill out another form under this new contract?**

- No, if your patient has an active and approved non-Gerber brand specialty formula on their benefits, this contract change will not impact that.

### **Will patients continue to receive the same amount of formula?**

- Yes, WIC will follow the same guidelines for the amount of formula provided based on the infant's age.

### **What about infants who have been receiving Enfamil Prosobee or Similac Soy Isomil due to the Gerber Soy Shortage; what Soy formula will they now receive?**

- Infants who have been receiving *Similac Soy Isomil* can continue to receive this formula as it is now our contract soy option.

- Infants who have been receiving *Enfamil Prosobee Simply Plant Based* will need to switch to *Similac Soy Isomil*, unless they have an approved Exception Request for Formula in place with significant medical justification.

**What about infants who have been receiving a comparable standard non-contract formula (such as Enfamil Infant or Similac Advance) due to the Gerber Gentle Shortage; what comparable formula will they now receive?**

- Infants who have been receiving *Similac Advance* (comparable to Gerber Gentle) can remain on that formula as it is now our contract standard option.
- Infants who have been receiving *Enfamil Infant* will be switching to *Similac Advance*, unless they have an approved Exception Request for Formula in place with significant medical justification.
- Infants who have been receiving *Gerber Gentle* will be switching to *Similac Advance*, unless they have an approved Exception Request for Formula in place with significant medical justification.

**What about infants who have been receiving a comparable standard non-contract, reduced lactose/partially hydrolyzed whey-based formula (such as Enfamil Reguline or Gentlease OR Similac Total Comfort) due to the Gerber SoothePro Shortage; what comparable formula will they now receive?**

- Infants who have been receiving *Similac Sensitive* or *Total Comfort* (comparable to Gerber SoothePro) can remain on those formulas as they are now included in our standard contract options.
- Infants who have been receiving *Enfamil Gentlease* or *Enfamil Reguline* will switch to *Similac Total Comfort*, unless they have an approved Exception Request for Formula in place with significant medical justification.
- Infants who have been receiving *Gerber SoothePro* will switch to *Similac Total Comfort* unless they have an approved Exception Request for Formula in place with significant medical justification.
  - *Similac Sensitive* is another reduced lactose option available to WIC participants under the new contract. *Similac Sensitive* contains a non-hydrolyzed whey/casein blend of proteins.

**What products will require an Exception Request for Formula form?**

- Any formula that is **NOT** listed below will require an Exception Request for Formula Form:
  - *Similac Advance*
  - *Similac Total Comfort*
  - *Similac Sensitive*
  - *Similac Soy Isomil*

**Where should I direct families with questions?**

- Individuals with questions should contact their local clinic.
- If they are not sure which clinic they use or have additional questions, they can call (405) 426-8500 or email at [oklahomawic@health.ok.gov](mailto:oklahomawic@health.ok.gov).
- More information about the formula change can be found at <http://oklahoma.gov/health/wicformulafacts>.