



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

Commissioner's Office
350 Capitol Street, Room 702
Charleston, West Virginia 25301-3712
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Karen L. Bowling
Cabinet Secretary

August 14, 2015

Dear Colleague:

On October 1, 2015, the West Virginia Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) will be implementing a change in the provision of soy-based infant formula. West Virginia WIC is required by Federal Regulation 7 CFR 246.16a, to competitively bid infant formula for a rebate contract. As a result of the bid process, the standard infant formula for soy-based formula will be with Nestle Nutrition U.S.

West Virginia WIC continues to promote breastfeeding as the preferred method of infant feeding for at least the infant's first year; with a special emphasis on the health benefits derived by exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months. For healthy infants prescribed a standard soy-based infant formula, the WIC Program will provide Gerber® Good Start® Soy. The rebate contract for milk-based formulas has not been updated, and West Virginia WIC will continue to provide milk-based formulas from Abbott Nutrition, Inc., including Similac® Advance® OptiGRO™, Similac Sensitive®, Similac For Spit Up® and Similac Total Comfort™.

We ask your cooperation in encouraging the use of WIC contract formulas for your WIC-eligible infants who need standard milk and soy-based formulas. Your support will mean WIC will be able to serve many more nutritionally at-risk women, infants, and children who are in need of WIC services.

When WIC contract formulas are not medically appropriate, exempt formula and WIC nutritionals are still authorized for those infants who have special nutrition concerns. Exempt formulas (i.e. Nutramigen, Alimentum, etc.) and nutritionals (i.e. Pediasure, Duocal, etc.) are still available, by request, for infants and children with special medical conditions for a maximum of six months. After this time, the infant will need to be re-evaluated and a new Prescription Formula Form (WIC-53) will be required for further eligibility.

Thank you for your support of the West Virginia WIC Program, your promotion, and support of breastfeeding and encouraging the use of standard WIC contract formulas.

If you need additional information, please contact Cindy Pillo, Director, DHHR, Office of Nutrition Services at (304) 558-0030 or Cindy.M.Pillo@wv.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rahul Gupta".

Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH, FACP
Commissioner and State Health Officer