



Memorandum

#16-032

TO: WIC Regional Directors
WIC Local Agency Directors

FROM: Amanda Hovis, Director
Nutrition Education/Clinic Services Unit
Nutrition Services Section

DATE: March 18, 2016

SUBJECT: Alimentum Can Size Change 2016

In memo # 16-017, entitled “Abbott Product Changes 2016,” staff were informed that Alimentum powder would change can sizes from 16 oz. (formula code 409) to 12.1 oz. (formula code 598). The new formula code (598) will be created and become available for clinic issuance beginning April 1, 2016. The new 12.1 oz. can size will be introduced at retail with increasing availability beginning in May and with better availability in June, 2016 and later. **In addition, the number of 12.1 oz. cans issued each month will be higher than the number of 16 oz. cans issued.** Vendors were recently informed of the planned change and that they can continue to sell their existing stock for a period of time.

Participants must purchase the can size that was issued to their EBT card. It is not possible for participants to purchase both can sizes at the same time.

Instructions for Alimentum Issuance:

It will take several months for the can size transition to be completed. Once the 16 oz. size is no longer available in your area, all new issuance for Alimentum powder should be formula code 598. Please follow the instructions below when deciding which formula code to issue for client appointments during the month listed:

- 1) April 2016 – Both codes 409 (16 oz. size) and 598 (12.1 oz. size) will be available to issue. Issue code 409 for the April benefit month.
 - a. Inform Alimentum receiving participants of the change coming within the next few months.
 - b. Encourage them to purchase early in the month.
 - c. Remind participants that proration will occur if there is a formula code change during a current month.

- 2) May 2016 – Both codes 409 and 598 will be available to issue. Most areas will have some 16 oz. (code 409) stock available. Some retailers will only have 12.1 oz. (code 598) stock available. If so, stop issuing code 409 and issue code 598 instead.
 - a. Continue to inform Alimentum receiving participants of the upcoming can size change.
 - b. Encourage participants to purchase early in the month.
 - c. Participants must return to the clinic if no 16 oz. stock is available so that they can be issued code 598 for the 12.1 oz. size.
 - d. Remind participants that proration will occur if there is a formula code change during a current month.
- 3) June 2016 – Most areas will no longer have the 16oz. size (code 409). If so, issue code 598 for the 12.1 oz. size instead.
 - a. Purchases for the 16 oz. size (code 409) can continue to be made until stock is depleted.
 - b. Most participants will need to change to code 598 this month.
 - c. Remind participants that proration will occur if there is a formula code change during a current month
- 4) July 2016 – Most areas will have only the 12.1 oz. size in stock. If so, issue code 598. Remind participants that proration will occur if there is a formula code change during a current month

Example: Participant has benefits in hand in April and will receive May, June and July benefits. Issue code 409 and explain that the can size will change over the next few months and that they may need to return to the clinic to have benefits changed to the new can size before their next appointment in July. It is best that they try to purchase early in the month to reduce the amount of benefit proration that will happen. When the new code (598) is issued, they will notice an increase in the number of cans they receive.

- 5) If participants are unable to purchase Alimentum formula at the store, they should check their shopping list to see which size can they were issued and compare it to the size they are trying to purchase. If the two do not match, and the size issued is no longer available, they should return to the clinic to have their benefits changed.

If you have any questions, please contact Sandra Brown, Food/Formula Specialist, Nutrition Education/Clinic Services Unit, at 512-341-4576 or Sandra.brown@dshs.state.tx.us, or Pat Koym, Clinical Nutrition Specialist, Nutrition Education/Clinic Services Unit, at 512-341-4578 or Patricia.koym@dshs.state.tx.us