



Memorandum

#16-091

TO: WIC Regional Directors
WIC Local Agency Directors

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

DATE: September 16, 2016

SUBJECT: Similac Product Changes

This memo is to inform you of some changes involving the Similac product line.

Similac with Human Milk Oligosaccharides

Abbott will be introducing two new products in October 2016 that clients may see on store shelves or receive in hospitals soon after. As hospitals switch over to these formulas, you may receive questions about these formulas.

Please note that the following formulas are **NOT** authorized by Texas WIC. They are:

Similac Pro-Advance in 1.45 lb. container

Similac Pro-Sensitive in 1.45 lb. container

So, what do I need to know about the new formula?

Similac with Human Milk Oligosaccharides (HMOs) does not actually contain HMOs. Rather, it contains synthetic form of FL-2, which is one of the 130 oligosaccharides found in human milk. The synthetic FL-2 structure is different than human milk FL-2 and no independent studies have been done to determine if it acts the same way as human milk FL-2 in the infant's body. No infant formulas on the market contain components made from human breastmilk.

Non-GMO Product Line Extensions

In addition, Similac has extended their non-GMO product line to include versions of Similac Total Comfort, Similac for Spit-Up and Similac Go & Grow Milk in the large plastic canister size. Please remind clients that these products are **NOT** authorized by Texas WIC and will not scan at the store.

Similac Go and Grow Milk Discontinued

Similac Go & Grow Milk will be changing can sizes from 1.38 lbs. to 1.5 lbs. Both the UPC and

reconstituted ounces will be different for the new 1.5 lb. can size and it will not scan at the store. Participants who were previously issued Go and Grow may continue to purchase it as long as the 1.38 lb. can is still available.

Due to this change, we expect a decrease in supply. Therefore, please **discontinue** issuing **code 471** for Go and Grow Milk **immediately**. Since benefits are issued 3 months in advance, the code will stay in the clinic table until the December/January timeframe. This will allow staff to continue to exchange formula. Once the code is removed from the clinic formula table, exchanges cannot be done without help desk assistance.

Because of this change, there will be **no toddler milk or soy formulas** available from Texas WIC. If a toddler formula is requested after 12 months of age, discuss alternatives such as milk or soy-based infant formula with the health care provider.

If you have any questions please contact Akata Sanghani, Food/Formula Specialist, Nutrition Education/Clinic Services Unit, at (512) 341-4557, Akata.Sanghani@dshs.state.tx.us or Sandra Brown, Team Lead Food/Formula Specialist, Nutrition Education/Clinic Services Unit at (512) 341-4576, Sandra.Brown@dshs.state.tx.us .