

Office of the Director

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JANET NAPOLITANO, GOVERNOR
SUSAN GERARD, DIRECTOR

Dear Provider:

There are three WIC Programs in Arizona:

- Arizona WIC Program
- Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA) WIC Program; and
- Navajo Nation (NN) WIC Program.

Together, our WIC programs serve over 60% of all infants born in Arizona. Our programs are committed to promoting optimum growth and development and believe that breast milk is the best food for infants. WIC staff works hard to promote breastfeeding and our goal is to support mothers so that they breastfeed their infants up to one year of age. The State of Arizona has a breastfeeding hotline, 1-800-833-4642 for lactating mothers to call for assistance. If requested by the parent/guardian or medically indicated, infant formula will be provided.

To comply with federal regulations, the WIC programs are required to have a rebate system for infant formula in place. This ensures that we can serve as many at risk infants in Arizona as possible. By using the rebated formulas, the WIC programs are able to serve eight infants for every infant on non-rebated formula.

This year, the infant formula contract was awarded to Ross Products, who was the lowest bidder. Starting October 1, 2007, the new rebated formulas for the Arizona WIC programs will be:

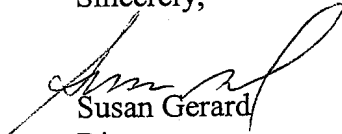
- Similac Advance with Iron
- Similac Isomil Advance with Iron
- Similac Sensitive

The change does not apply to medical formulas (example: Nutramigen, Pregestimil, EnfaCare) and other medical foods, which the WIC programs will continue to provide for infants and children with a medical prescription.


Infants currently receiving the Mead Johnson milk-based formulas, Enfamil Lipil with Iron, Enfamil Lactofree and Gentlease, will be given a choice of Similac Advance with Iron or Similac Sensitive. These formulas should meet the majority of the infants' needs. On October 1, Gentlease will be considered a special medical formula. As with all nonrebate and special medical formulas, a medical prescription including a diagnosis of the medical condition, such as milk protein allergy will be required for issuance. Gassiness, spitting up, and fussiness do not constitute a medical condition requiring Gentlease. Special guidance is enclosed for your use.

The Arizona WIC programs appreciate your support as we make this transition. We encourage you to promote and support breastfeeding and to work closely with our local WIC programs in this effort. If you have questions regarding our policies and procedures, please contact the appropriate WIC program at: Arizona State WIC program 1-866-229-6561, ITCA WIC Program 602-258-4822 and NN WIC program 1-800-307-4231. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you in promoting the health and wellbeing of infants and children across our state.


Sincerely,



Susan Gerard
Director



Harold Magalnick, M.D., Chair
Maternal and Child Health Committee
Arizona Medical Association



Keith Dveirin, M.D., FAAP
President, Arizona Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics

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Enclosure