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Agency of Human Services

**Gerber the Vermont WIC Nutrition Program Contract Infant Formula
Effective 9-29-2019**

August 2019

Dear Colleague:

Effective September 29, 2019, there will be a change to the **standard** infant formulas offered by the Vermont WIC Nutrition Program due to a change in the state's infant formula rebate contract. Engaging in an infant formula rebate contract is a federal requirement from USDA.

- **Gerber Good Start Gentle** and **Gerber Good Start Soy** will be the primary WIC milk- and soy-based formulas replacing Similac Advance and Similac Isomil.
- **Gerber Good Start Soothe** will also be available to families *without* a prescription replacing Similac Total Comfort, Similac Sensitive for Fuss & Gas, and Similac for Spit Up.
- See back page for product information

The Vermont WIC Program serves approximately 11,200 participants each month, including 1,100 fully formula fed infants. We are asking all Vermont practitioners to **use Gerber formulas for WIC infants fed standard formula** so infants will not have to switch formulas when they are certified for WIC services. All other *medical* formulas will continue to be available for infants with appropriately documented diagnosed medical conditions.

The **medical documentation form** used when requesting medical formula or medical food has also been updated. Highlights include allowing infant medical formula prescriptions to **extend up to age 1** and only requiring an updated form on an annual basis for children over age 1. Access the new forms at www.healthvermont.gov/children-youth-families/wic/resources-health-professionals.

WIC will continue to promote **breastfeeding as the preferred infant feeding method**. WIC offers a wide range of breastfeeding services, including individualized lactation support, peer counselors, prenatal breastfeeding classes, and help accessing pumps.

Want free WIC outreach materials? To receive "Mom Strong" materials from the National WIC Association use the online opt-in by September 1: <https://nwa.meredithcustomsolutions.com/>

Vermont WIC remains committed to the coordination of services with health care providers in order to ensure the optimal health and nutritional status of mothers and children in Vermont. We look forward to working with you and your staff to achieve these mutual goals. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your local WIC program or contact the state WIC office at 1-800-649-4357 or WIC@Vermont.gov.




Sincerely,



Jackie Charnley MS, RD
State Nutrition Coordinator, Vermont WIC Program
Maternal Child Health Division, Vermont Department of Health



Below is the suggested Gerber product that is most comparable with the Abbott standard products.

Effective October 2019 No Longer WIC Eligible in Vermont:	Corresponding Gerber Product:	Product Image
Similac Advance	Gerber Good Start GentlePro <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard Milk-based formula 	
Similac Isomil Soy	Gerber Good Start Soy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard Soy-based formula Kosher and Halal 	
Similac Sensitive Fuss & Gas Similac Total Comfort Similac for Spit Up	Gerber Good Start SoothePro <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard milk-based product with smaller proteins for easier digestion. Helps with colic, fussiness & gas, and spitting up 	

WIC is providing the following formula transition instructions to families with infants on the affected formulas:

Transitioning Your Baby to a New Formula

WIC is here to help you and your baby through this transition. Most babies will switch to their new formula without any problems. Some parents may notice minor changes in feeding patterns when switching their babies to a new formula.

A good way to make the change is to slowly mix the old formula with the new formula over a period of about a week.

Instructions:

- Prepare some of the new formula and some of the old formula separately, then mix the two prepared formulas together as described in the chart below.
- Use less of the old formula and more of the new formula in each bottle over the course of the transition.
- Look for the amount of formula your baby drinks at a feeding in the left-hand column.
- Then, using columns to the right, mix the amount of current formula with the amount of the new Gerber formula.
- Continue to adjust the current formula down and the Gerber formula up over the course of the week.

Find the Amount of Formula Your Baby Drinks at Each Feeding:	Days 1 and 2	Days 3 and 4	Days 5 and 6	Day 7
4 oz bottle	3 oz current formula + 1 oz Gerber	2 oz current formula + 2 oz Gerber	1 oz current formula + 3 oz Gerber	4 oz Gerber
6 oz bottle	4 oz current formula + 2 oz Gerber	3 oz current formula + 3 oz Gerber	2 oz current formula + 4 oz Gerber	6 oz Gerber
8 oz bottle	6 oz current formula + 2 oz Gerber	4 oz current formula + 4 oz Gerber	2 oz current formula + 6 oz Gerber	8 oz Gerber