

May 24, 2021

Dear Healthcare Provider,

The Virginia Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) continues to promote and support breastfeeding as the normal and healthiest way to feed infants. For infants who are not exclusively breastfed, WIC helps families by providing supplemental formula during the first year of life.

Virginia WIC's standard contract formulas are Abbott Similac Advance and Soy Isomil. WIC also provides standard alternate contract formulas: Abbott Similac Sensitive, Spit-Up, and Total Comfort. Similac Advance and Soy Isomil are 20 calorie/fluid ounce formulas and Similac Sensitive, Spit-Up, and Total Comfort have provided 19 calories/fluid ounce since 2014.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires medical documentation for any formula purchased with WIC funds that does not provide a minimum of 20 calories/ounce at standard dilution. Abbott has now changed the caloric density of Similac Sensitive, Spit-Up, and Total Comfort from 19 calories/fluid ounce back to the standard 20 calories/fluid ounce. As a result, these three formulas now meet the USDA criteria for a standard formula.

Effective June 1, 2021 Virginia WIC will no longer require approval from a Healthcare Provider (HCP) for Similac Sensitive or Total Comfort formulas and therefore a medical documentation form (WIC-395) will no longer be required for these formulas.

Similac Spit-up will still require medical documentation. This requirement is in alignment with Virginia WIC issuance policies that were in place prior to the changes in caloric composition and helps ensure this formula is used under the guidance of a HCP and only for reasons related to severe GERD that impacts an infant's growth.

The Virginia WIC Request for Special Form, WIC-395, has also been updated to include:

- *Division into 3 sections specific for infants, children, and women*
- *Maximum length of use has been reduced to 6 months*
- *Weight and Height/Length measurements are required*

Lastly, we strongly encourage you to visit the Healthcare Provider section of the Virginia WIC website!

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/wic/healthcare-providers/>

Valuable information has been added and includes quick access contact information for all Virginia WIC clinics, an FAQ document specific to the issuance and modifications details for WIC food benefits, a fillable version of the new WIC-395 form, and a link to sign-up to receive additional information and updates from WIC.

If you need further assistance or have additional questions, please contact your Local WIC Agency or reach out to the Jennifer Madden Smith at the State WIC office- Jennifer.madden@vdh.virginia.gov or (804) 864-7843.

The Virginia WIC programs thanks you for being a partner and supporter in our efforts to improve the nutrition and health outcomes of women, infants, and children throughout the Commonwealth!

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Megan Nason

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Megan Nason, MS RD

Virginia WIC Program Manager



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.