



TOMÁS J. ARAGÓN, M.D., Dr.P.H  
Director and State Public Health Officer

# State of California—Health and Human Services Agency California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor

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TO: HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

## TEMPORARY HYPOALLERGENIC FORMULA OPTIONS FOR WIC FAMILIES

The California Department of Public Health/Women, Infants and Children program (CDPH/WIC) requests that all health care providers who prescribe Nutramigen Enflora LGG, Nutramigen concentrate, or Nutramigen Ready-to-Feed formula to infants enrolled in the WIC Program specify that hypoallergenic equivalents are acceptable alternatives due to the infant formula shortage. While medical insurance may not require a prescription to specifically allow for an equivalent, the WIC program does require that specificity. ***Therefore, health care providers are requested to include “Nutramigen or hypoallergenic equivalent” in the prescription through September 30, 2022.***

### BACKGROUND

Due to the 2022 Abbott recall of certain powder infant formula and national formula shortage crisis, there have been major supply chain disruptions on many therapeutic formulas. Supplies of Nutramigen LGG were particularly impacted by the shortages because Similac Alimentum powder formula was part of the recall. These supply chain disruptions have made it difficult for WIC families to obtain Nutramigen formulas due to low stock of these products.

CDPH/WIC received a waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that provides temporary regulatory flexibility to allow for more hypoallergenic formula to be issued to families using WIC benefits.

### WIC MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

The expanded hypoallergenic formula options listed below may only be provided to WIC families if they have a qualifying diagnosis and a prescription from their health care provider that either lists the following alternative brands of formula with the specific Nutramigen formula product or specifies “Nutramigen or hypoallergenic equivalent.” **If prescriptions only narrowly mention Nutramigen, families will not be able to purchase hypoallergenic equivalents using their WIC benefits.**



CDPH Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Division  
3901 Lennane Drive MS 8600 Sacramento, CA 95834  
P.O. Box 997375 MS 8600 Sacramento, CA 95899-7375  
(916) 928-8500 [Division Website](http://Division Website) ([www.wicworks.ca.gov](http://www.wicworks.ca.gov))



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Families that are not on WIC may not need their prescriptions to specifically call out "Nutramigen or hypoallergenic equivalent" and can make this election at the point of purchase since they are not utilizing WIC benefits to make their purchase and are not subject to WIC's documentation requirements.

#### HYPOALLERGENIC FORMULA OPTIONS

WIC families now have the following hypoallergenic formula options if they are unable to find their prescribed Nutramigen formula at a WIC approved store:

- Comforts Hypoallergenic Infant Formula Powder
- Parent's Choice Hypoallergenic Powder
- Signature Care Infant Formula Hypoallergenic Powder
- Up & Up Hypoallergenic Infant Formula Powder
- Well Beginnings Hypoallergenic Infant Formula Powder
- Similac Alimentum Ready-to-Feed

For questions about this letter, please email [Formula@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Formula@cdph.ca.gov).

For more information and resources for providers and patients regarding the infant formula shortage, please visit [www.cdpb.ca.gov/formula](http://www.cdpb.ca.gov/formula).

Sincerely,



Christine Sullivan, Chief  
Women, Infants and Children Division