



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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- Alert -

**Abbott Wins the Massachusetts WIC Nutrition Program Infant Formula Contract
Effective 10-1-2016**

July 2016

Dear Colleague:

Effective October 1, 2016, there will be a change to the standard infant formulas offered by the Massachusetts WIC Nutrition Program due to a change in the region's infant formula rebate contract. Similac Advance and Similac Soy Isomil will be the primary WIC milk- and soy-based formulas (replacing Enfamil Infant and ProSobee).

Engaging in an infant formula rebate contract is a federal requirement from USDA. The Massachusetts WIC serves approximately 121,000 participants each month. Last federal fiscal year, \$24.2 million were recovered from the infant formula rebate contract enabling Massachusetts WIC to serve an additional 35,400 participants, almost 30% of our caseload.

Beginning October 1st, we will be changing all formula-fed infants receiving standard milk- and soy-based formulas to the appropriate Similac product. We are asking all Massachusetts practitioners to use Similac formulas for their formula-fed WIC infants upon delivery at that time, so infants will not have to switch formulas when they are certified for WIC services. Special formulas will continue to be available for infants with appropriately documented diagnosed medical conditions.

WIC will continue to promote breastfeeding as the preferred infant feeding method. Please remember breastfed infants will not routinely receive formula from WIC in the birth month in order to protect a mother's growing milk supply. As you may be aware, WIC offers a wide range of breastfeeding services, including individualized lactation support, peer counselors, prenatal breastfeeding classes, and help accessing pumps.

Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts. 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 call the state WIC office at 1-800-942-1007.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Hause".

Judy Hause
Director, Massachusetts WIC Program
Nutrition Division, Massachusetts Department of Public Health