

# FINAL RULE UPDATE: Revisions in the WIC Food Package - Infant Formula

Date: February 26, 2025

To: WIC Authorized Vendors

From: WIC Vendor Management Unit

Impacted WIC Category/ Sub-Category: Infant Formula

### **Final Rule Information**

This memo is sent to provide details about changes made to approved products due to the Final Rule from USDA FNS. The Final Rule revises regulations to align the WIC food packages with the current *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and to reflect recommendations from the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine while promoting nutrition security and equity and considering program administration. The changes are intended to provide WIC participants with a wider variety of foods that align with the latest nutritional science; provide WIC state agencies with greater flexibility to prescribe and tailor food packages that accommodate participants' special dietary needs and personal and cultural food preferences; and address key nutritional needs to support healthy dietary patterns. More information about the final rule document can be found here: Final Rule: Revisions in the WIC Food Packages (2024) | Food and Nutrition Service

## Changes to the Food Package

Below are the changes required for Infant Formula:

USDA FNS has increased the maximum monthly amount and types of infant formula allowed for partially and mostly breastfeeding participants. This change allows for more infant formula to be available, including formulas for babies with specific dietary requirements/needs.

#### Information for Vendors

### Reminders:

- 1. **Product Specifications:** As per the latest guidelines, only specific types and brands of infant formulas are authorized for WIC purchases. Please review the updated approved products list (APL) and ensure that your inventory and minimum stock aligns with these specifications. Also, only complete purchases of Infant Formula from an approved wholesaler. The approved product list (APL) and list of approved wholesalers can be found at <a href="https://www.freshnewwic.com">www.freshnewwic.com</a>.
- 2. Inventory Management/Minimum Stock Requirements: It is essential to maintain adequate stock levels of the authorized and approved infant formula brands. All vendors are required to meet minimum stocking requirements. Please have an alternative approved wholesaler to avoid shortages or sales of expired products.
- 3. **Pricing Policy:** Ensure that you charge competitive prices for WIC approved food items. This ensures participants receive fair and reasonable pricing on all authorized products. Please carefully monitor your pricing structure for compliance.
- 4. **Staff Education and Training:** Each authorized vendor is responsible for training their staff on WIC and infant formula guidelines. Ensure staff are familiar with the redemption process for smooth transactions and purchases of all approved infant formula. Staff training is available at www.freshnewwic.com.
- 5. **Compliance Monitoring:** Please be aware that compliance/routine monitoring will be conducted to ensure adherence to WIC program guidelines. It is important to maintain accurate records and be prepared for inventory audits.

# **Additional Information**

Vendors may visit <u>www.healthyms.com/ewic</u> for additional information and refer participants to the website or to speak with their local clinic if they have concerns with their existing food packages. MSDH WIC will keep vendors updated on further changes regarding infant formulas, including any recalls or new products that may become eligible for WIC participants.