

Illinois WIC formula change talking points

Below are talking points and answers to frequently asked questions medical staff may use when speaking with patients about the formula change from Mead Johnson products to Abbott products. This is NOT a handout to give to Illinois WIC participants.

WHO:

- Illinois WIC will transition from providing infant formula from Mead Johnson (Enfamil brand) to formula from Abbott (Similac brand).

WHAT:

- Illinois WIC staff with the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) have selected nutritionally comparable formula options, ensuring the smoothest transition possible for our families.

WHY:

- Federal regulations require Illinois WIC to solicit bids for infant formula, ensuring products with the best value are selected to meet the needs of our Illinois WIC families.
- This is a requirement of all WIC state agencies, which allows for a wise use of resources, serving as many WIC families as possible.

WHEN:

- February 1, 2026: Illinois WIC begins transitioning from Mead Johnson (Enfamil) formula to Abbott (Similac) formula.
- By May 1, 2026: All Illinois WIC families will have transitioned to Abbott formula.

HOW:

- WIC families will begin to be issued Abbott formula at their normally scheduled WIC appointment over a period of three months (February – April 2026).

Frequently Asked Questions



Will stores provide both formula products during this transition?

IDHS encourages Illinois WIC vendors to stock both Mead Johnson and Abbott products through April 30, 2026, allowing WIC families with Mead Johnson-issued formula to still find Mead Johnson products at all WIC-approved vendors. However, some WIC-approved vendors, especially smaller vendors that normally do not carry both brands, may choose to switch over on or before Feb. 1, 2026. Please refer your patients to their WIC provider if they are unable to find WIC-approved formula.

Do other medical providers know about the formula change?

IDHS shared the crosswalk, timeline, and other relevant information with the medical community in October 2025, and IDHS will provide guidance to hospitals or doctors that reach out with any questions. Please refer to the Abbott website at [abbottnutrition.com](https://www.abbottnutrition.com) for product descriptions.

What if participants use a medically prescribed/specialty formula?

Illinois WIC provides a limited number of medically prescribed specialty formulas. These items have been modified for special medical conditions and as such are not part of the infant formula contract. The process to receive these will not change. Mead Johnson products which are currently considered as contract but do not meet the “specialty” status include Enfamil AR and Enfamil Reguline. Starting Feb. 1, 2026, families can request that these formulas be covered through Illinois Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) via a durable medical equipment (DME) provider when medically necessary with a prescription from their medical provider.

Do these products offer the same nutritional value?

Enfamil and Similac formulas are nutritionally comparable, and both meet federal standards for infant formula.

What if a child has a dietary restriction?

Certain formulas meet dietary and religious restrictions such as Kosher and Halal formulas. Additionally, all contract products are vegetarian.

What if I have questions?

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact Erin Novak, WIC Director, or Stephanie Bess, OFW Associate Director, at 217-782-2166.

Illinois WIC Infant Formula Crosswalk

Effective: February 1, 2026

WIC participants will begin transitioning from Enfamil products to Similac products

Enfamil WIC Products		Similac WIC Products	
Enfamil Infant Powder 12.5 oz	»»»	Similac Advance Powder 12.4 oz	
Enfamil Infant Conc. Liquid 13 fl oz	»»»	Similac Advance Conc. Liquid 13 fl oz	
Enfamil Gentlease Powder 12.4 oz	»»»	Similac Total Comfort Powder 12.6 oz	
Enfamil Reguline Powder 12.4 oz	»»»	Similac Advance Powder 12.4 oz	
Enfamil ProSobee Powder 12.9 oz	»»»	Similac Soy Isomil Powder 12.4 oz	
Enfamil ProSobee Conc. Liquid 13 fl oz	»»»	Similac Soy Isomil Conc. Liquid 13 fl oz	
Additional Contracted Similac WIC Product Available:			
Similac Sensitive Powder 12.5 oz			
Similac Advance Ready To Feed 32 fl oz			
Similac Soy Isomil Ready To Feed 32 fl oz			
Similac Sensitive Ready To Feed 32 fl oz			