

Stakeholder Guide for Illinois Medical Providers

General timeline of key dates during the transition:

- **Week of Oct. 13, 2025:** Abbott and IDHS to share information with the medical community and WIC vendors
- **November 1, 2025:** IDHS to share information with other community partners
- **February 1, 2026:** WIC Agencies begin issuing Abbott formula to participants at their regularly scheduled WIC appointment
- **May 1, 2026:** All Illinois WIC families have officially transitioned to Abbott products

IDHS guidance to the medical community:

IDHS will share information through various communication channels. However, we encourage medical providers to share this information with their network. IDHS will provide additional guidance to medical providers that reach out with any questions. Abbott will also provide hospitals and other medical entities with product information and marketing materials.

IDHS guidance to WIC agencies:

WIC agencies should not encourage WIC participants to come in prior to their regularly scheduled appointment to be issued the new product. The process of switching to Abbott formula will take place over three months to allow for sufficient time to ensure enough product is available to meet the needs of all Illinois WIC families.

IDHS guidance to WIC vendors:

IDHS will encourage Illinois WIC vendors to stock both Enfamil (Mead Johnson) and Similac (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.

Non-contract medically prescribed specialty formulas:

Illinois WIC provides a limited number of medically prescribed specialty formulas that may be needed. The process to receive these will not change.

Non-WIC Formulas:

For those with a current medical card, the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) may pay for therapeutic formulas not covered by WIC and should be referred to a Durable Medical Equipment (DME) provider for assistance.