



WIC Flash

News from the Arkansas WIC Program
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INFANT FORMULA CHANGES

Every three years WIC Programs are required to bid on infant formula contract(s).

Starting **October 1, 2018**, the Arkansas WIC Program formula contract will be with Gerber Good Start.

Infants currently receiving Abbott Nutrition Similac Advance or Similac Soy will receive Gerber Good Start Gentle, Gerber Good Start Soothe, or Gerber Good Start Soy.

On July 16, 2018, the Arkansas WIC Program will begin issuing benefits on the eWIC card for Gerber Good Start infant formulas. All benefits with a First Day to Use of October 1, 2018 or later will be for one of the following (individual unit UPC codes):

UPC	Name	Unit of Measure	Package type
050000216673	Gerber GS Gentle powder	12.7 oz.	Can
050000035304	Gerber GS Soy powder	12.9 oz.	Can
050000624003	Gerber GS Soothe powder	12.4 oz.	Can

Through September 30, 2018, WIC participants may use checks that have a “First Day to Use” of September 30 or earlier to purchase Similac Advance or Similac Soy formulas. Local health units will encourage WIC participants to use their September formula benefits as soon as they can be used in September. **There will be no valid WIC checks for Similac Advance or Similac Soy formulas after September 30.**

If you run out of Similac Advance or Similac Soy before September 30 and a participant presents a check for one of them, they must go to another vendor to use their check. **Vendors may not substitute one brand or type of formula for another.** Vendors may face sanctions and repayment of WIC checks for any formula substitutions.

Local health units **WILL NOT** replace checks issued for Similac Advance or Similac Soy formulas with checks for Gerber formulas due to lack of vendor inventory. We are prohibited from doing so under the terms of our formula contracts.

Since the benefits for the Gerber Good Start formulas will not have a “First Day to Use” date before October 1, there will be **no** Arkansas WIC demand before that date.

VENDORS MAY NOT SUBSTITUTE ANY FORMULA TYPE OR BRAND FOR ANOTHER. THE PARTICIPANT MUST BE ISSUED EXACTLY WHAT IS PRINTED ON THE WIC CHECK.

The chart below shows which formulas are currently issued and which will be authorized for benefits with “First Day to Use” on or after October 1, 2018.

Current	New
Similac Advance Stage 1, powdered, 12.4 oz.	Gerber Good Start Gentle, powdered, 12.7 oz.
Similac Advance Stage 1, concentrate, 13 oz.	Gerber Good Start Gentle, concentrate, 12.1 oz.
Similac Advance Stage 1, RTF, 32 oz.	Gerber Good Start Gentle, RTF, 4 pack/8.45 oz.
Similac Soy Isomil, powdered, 12.4 oz.	Gerber Good Start Soy, powdered, 12.9 oz.
Similac Soy Isomil, concentrate, 13 oz.	Gerber Good Start Soy, concentrate, 12.1 oz.
Similac Soy Isomil, RTF, 32 oz.	Gerber Good Start Soy, RTF, 4 pack/8.45 oz.
Similac Advance Stage 1, powdered, 12.4 oz. OR special formula issued by the local health unit	Gerber Good Start Soothe, powdered, 12.4 oz.

Timeline Summary

- July 16, 2018 First issuance of eWIC benefits for Gerber Good Start Formulas (Gentle, Soothe and Soy).
- July 16, 2018 –Sep. 30, 2018 Normal redemption of checks and eWIC benefits for Abbott Nutrition brand formulas (Similac Advance and Similac Soy).
- October 1, 2018*** First issuance of eWIC benefits are **valid** for Gerber Good Start brand of formula (Gentle, Soothe and Soy); no more checks or eWIC benefit issuance of Abbott formulas.

Minimum Stock Requirements

October 1, 2018 – October 15, 2018 the minimum stock requirements for Gerber Good Start products will be **suspended**. **ALL** other minimum stock requirements will remain in effect. Please make every effort to keep enough inventory for your expected customer flow in early October. Again, you may NOT substitute one formula for another. Vendors will be required to refund the WIC program for any formula checks that were not redeemed with the correct formula.

October 15, 2018 – the following minimum stock requirements will be in effect for the new Gerber formulas:

Gerber Good Start Gentle, powdered, 12.7 oz.	15 cans
Gerber Good Start Soothe, powdered, 12.4 oz.	11 cans
Gerber Good Start Soy, powdered, 12.9 oz.	11 cans