



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

August 2009

Dear Health Care Provider:

On behalf of the Department of Health and the Florida WIC Program, I am pleased to announce the new WIC food packages will be implemented statewide October 1, 2009. The new and improved WIC food package will significantly enhance the nutritional quality of foods available to WIC mothers, infants, and young children. WIC will continue to offer milk, cheese, juice, breakfast cereal, baby cereal, eggs, beans, peanut butter, and canned tuna. WIC will also offer 100% whole wheat bread, brown rice, corn tortillas, fruits, vegetables, canned salmon, soy milk, and baby foods such as fruits, vegetables, and meats. The new food packages are designed to promote and support exclusive breastfeeding. There will be changes in the amounts of infant formula (artificial baby milk) provided depending on the age of the infant and breastfeeding status — more formula for ages 4 through 5 months and less formula for ages 6 through 11 months when baby cereal and food is provided.

For WIC infants who are not fully breastfed, we ask for your support in using WIC contract brands of infant formula. The Department's contract is with Nestlé Nutrition and will last until January 31, 2011. The WIC contract formulas are Nestlé Good Start® Gentle Plus, Soy Plus, and Protect Plus. Gentle Plus 2, Soy Plus 2, and Protect Plus 2 formulas are also available for infants 9 months and older and children to 2 years of age.

The new federal food package regulations include medical documentation requirements for specific circumstances. Non-contract formulas, exempt infant formulas, and medical foods continue to require a written request with appropriate documentation. Examples of qualifying medical conditions include prematurity and low birth weight; metabolic, immune system and life threatening disorders; GI disorders and malabsorption conditions that impair ingestion, digestion, absorption or utilization of nutrients; and Failure to Thrive with documentation of inadequate growth, weight for length below 10th percentile, or BMI below 10th percentile for age and sex.

Some additional circumstances require written medical documentation with the request. They include: children with milk allergies, lactose intolerance, or vegan diets that require soy formula or soy milk; and children and women with lactose intolerance who can not consume lactose free milk or soy milk and require additional cheese. WIC will offer 1% lowfat or fat free milk to women and children 2 years of age and older. Medical documentation will be needed to issue whole milk to these clients. Children 12 through 23 months can receive whole milk only.

In some cases, infants 6 through 11 months of age who have medical conditions that require more formula than WIC standardly issues can receive additional amounts of formula if no baby foods are provided. Women and children that require formulas for medical conditions can also receive other WIC foods. The new WIC Medical Documentation for Formula and Food form can be found at www.FloridaWIC.org under the health provider tab and can be used for all requests as indicated above.

The WIC Program remains committed to the coordination of services with all agencies and providers in order to ensure the optimal health and nutritional status of mothers and children in Florida. We look forward to working with you and your staff to achieve our mutual maternal and child health goals. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact your local WIC office at the county health department or call the state WIC office at 1-800-342-3556.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ana M. Viamonte Ros".

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General