

July 8, 2022

TO: HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

FORMULAS PRESCRIBED FOR PREMATURE: OPTIONS FOR WIC FAMILIES

Currently, EnfaCare and NeoSure formulas for premature infants are extremely limited in many areas of California. Formulas for premature infants may only be provided to WIC families if the infant has a qualifying diagnosis and a prescription from their health care provider

As a result, the California Department of Public Health/Women, Infants and Children program (CDPH/WIC) requests that all health care providers who prescribe formula (22 calorie/ounce) for premature infants enrolled in the WIC Program consider the following:

1. **Allow additional product flexibility when writing prescriptions:**
Specify on the prescription that either Enfamil NeuroPro EnfaCare® or Similac Neosure® is acceptable. Health care providers are requested to include “**22 calorie per ounce formula – either EnfaCare or Neosure**” in the prescription through September 30, 2022.
2. **Provide alternative mixing instructions for standard formula:** If premature formula cannot be found, provide the patient with instructions showing how to prepare standard infant formula to provide additional calories. WIC is unable to provide such alternative formula preparation instructions; they must come from a licensed health care provider. A WIC participant with an *existing* prescription for premature formula will need an updated prescription to show that the HCP has authorized standard formula.

SUMMARY

If a prescription specifies only EnfaCare or only Neosure, families are restricted to purchasing that specific brand with their WIC benefits. Including *both* brands in the prescription will allow flexibilities during these challenging times.

Families that are not on WIC may not need their prescriptions to specifically call out “Either EnfaCare or Neosure” and can make this election at the point of purchase since

they are not using WIC benefits to make their purchase and are not subject to WIC's documentation requirements.

For questions about this letter, please email Formula@cdph.ca.gov.

For more information and resources for providers and patients regarding the infant formula shortage, please visit www.cdph.ca.gov/formula.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Sullivan".

Christine Sullivan, Chief
Women, Infants and Children Division