Similac for Spit-Up Is Discontinued
2/14/2023

Abbott has discontinued all sizes of powdered Similac for Spit Up. This formula was one of our rebate contract formulas. Similac for Spit Up 2 oz RTF will be manufactured but as an institutional only item, so not available to WIC.

- Enfamil AR may be approved with a Special Issuance Authorization and appropriate diagnosis. Please be sure you are implementing this going forward from February 28. If an infant has already been issued Enfamil AR during the shortage, you can continue to issue it. You do not have to review records to check for the completed Special Issuance Authorization form.

- During the shortage we allowed substitution of other (non-Enfamil) brands with added rice starch. We will not allow them after February 28. These formulas were “stacked” under Similac for Spit-Up. What to do if you have clients issued benefits as Similac for Spit-Up?
  - We’ve run reports for clients issued Similac for Spit-up with a FUD of January and later. Patrice Thomsen will email those clinics directly.
  - Staff will need to contact those clients and change the formula assignment. Benefits with FUD of March 1 and later definitely need changing. For benefits with FUD in February and LAST Use Date after Feb 28, staff should talk with the client to see if they will be able to redeem their benefits before February 28 so they can continue to get the “stacked” substitute one last time.
  - Remember if is a FUD in the future, you can use Modify Benefits – Void and issue new benefits. If you are working with current benefits, use Modify Benefits – Reissue or you risk prorating the benefits.
  - To be flexible around these change for these clients, if caregivers do not want to go back to one of the rebate formulas, staff may change to Enfamil AR without requiring a Special Issuance Authorization form.

- In the past, we allowed caregivers to choose Similac for Spit-up at their request because it was a rebate contract formula. To meet rebate contract requirements, we need to ask for a medical diagnosis to issue a formula that is not Similac Advance, Similac Sensitive, Similac Total Comfort or Similac Soy Isomil.

- We will not require trials on the contract formula.

- As with other non-contract formulas, it is not WIC’s place to suggest Enfamil AR.

- The Health Professional cover letter for the Kansas WIC Special Issuance Authorization form has been revised. The major revisions are to remove Similac for Spit-up and specify that Enfamil AR may be approved with a medical diagnosis. The form itself was not changed. (See attachments. It will be posted to the website later in February.)

- If staff have documented assessment and education about spitting up, we will let local staff have flexibility in accepting a diagnosis that may seem non-specific rather than argue with a caregiver and doctor. We hope that by stressing to the doctors that a medical diagnosis is required that we avoid most requests for simple spitting up. Unfortunately, the formula industry has heavily promoted added-rice formulas that reinforce the parents’ concern about simple spit-up.
• Address caregiver concerns about spitting up and vomiting through assessment and education. Document the caregiver’s responses in a KWIC note. Below are three links with information designed for parents, but we want all staff to read/view them. This information will help you to incorporate appropriate questions into your assessment when caregivers report their infants spit up, throw up, vomit, etc. Use open-ended questions such as, “Tell me about how you are feeding Alice.” “What has happened right before Cody throws up?” Ask probing questions about how much, how forceful, how often, etc. Use messages from these links to address individual situations. While we do not require trials of the remaining contract formulas, it is very likely that a “happy spitter” can remain on a contract formula.

All these resources can be used in clinic or be sent as a link when consulting remotely.

**Why Babies Spit Up - HealthyChildren.org** [American Academy of Pediatrics](http://www.healthychildren.org). (Available in English and Spanish.)
Great job of describing possible reasons babies spit up, and ways to decrease occurrence. We do have a concern about this piece. One of the tips is to offer infant oatmeal cereal—we wish they would’ve at least said something about talking with your baby’s health care provider before adding cereal to the bottle. Click the symbol at the top of the screen to change to Spanish. You can use the print icon to print off the text.

**Spitting Up Vs. Vomiting - When to Call your Doctor - YouTube** [St Louis Children’s Hospital](https://www.youtube.com). This is a great video that really clarifies spitting up versus vomiting. It is under three minutes long. Unfortunately, it seems there is only an English version.

**Is Your Baby Hungry or Full? Responsive Feeding Explained - HealthyChildren.org** [American Academy of Pediatrics](http://www.healthychildren.org). (Available in English and Spanish.)
This is more general information about feeding cues. We love that it includes a video and infographic. This resource combines well with the cues information from our Baby Behavior materials and the “You provide, your child decides” concepts from Ellyn Satter. This video is not quite 5 minutes long. Click the symbol at the top of the screen to change to Spanish. When we tried the print icon, it seems to not format well.