

WIC Formula Shortage Guidance for Clinics

If a caregiver is having difficulty locating their infant's WIC formula:

- Ask them if alternate forms of the formula are available at the store they are shopping at (ex: powder, concentrate, or ready to feed). If a store is out of the participant's formula (any form), refer them to the list of WIC Approved Vendors in their county and/or surrounding counties to contact about formula availability. This list can be found on the WIC Shopper App, or on our website at wic.health.ok.gov under the "WIC Foods" section.
- Check with the pharmacy (Care First or Freeland Brown) to find out about available formula options.
- If an alternate form of formula is available, assign in PHOCIS. Recall and reissue the new formula package. ***Please note, any ready to feed (FTF) formulations require State WIC Office approval prior to issuance.***
- If they are on a special formula, and it is not available in any form at local vendors or pharmacy, instruct them to check with their baby's doctor about switching to an alternate formula. Instruct them on obtaining an ERFF.
- If a change in formula is necessary, provide information on how to gradually transition from current formula (reference and/or provide "Helping Your Baby Adjust to a New Formula" handout, available on the WIC training link).

IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR CAREGIVERS when they are having difficulty finding formula:

- Instruct them to avoid doing the following as they may pose serious health risks to their baby:
 - Do not make your own infant formula. The [CDC](#) and [FDA](#) has information & warnings about homemade infant formula, as well as safe infant formula preparation and storage instructions.
 - Do not use goat's milk, cow's milk, or any plant-based beverages (such as Soy, Almond or Oat Milks/Beverages).
 - Never dilute infant formula with extra water or put baby foods in the bottle.
 - Avoid casual sharing of breastmilk (only use pasteurized human milk from a reputable milk bank).
- If the mother is currently breastfeeding, or has breastfed before, refer them to a lactation consultant about relactating or increasing their milk supply. Provide them with the Oklahoma Breastfeeding Hotline information - call 1-877-271-6455 or text: OK2BF to 61222 to speak with an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant.
- Have the caregiver check with the pediatrician to see if they have any formula samples they can provide.
- Provide community referrals to food banks, churches, DHS, or other organizations. Provide caregiver the Oklahoma Network of Care [website](#) to help them locate infant formula resources near them.
- If caregivers need to buy extra formula out of pocket, please instruct them to purchase only name brand formulas, store brand formulas, and/or other formulas manufactured in the United States.
 - These formulas are regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to make sure they meet minimum nutritional and safety requirements.
 - Remind them to only purchase formula from reputable suppliers. Smaller grocery stores, convenience stores, pharmacies, etc. are good places to check if larger big box stores are depleted.