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GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

January 18, 2024

Dear Health Care Provider (HCP):

The California Department of Public Health, Women, Infants and Children Program (CDPH/WIC) appreciates your partnership to give WIC participants the best care possible. This letter will assist you in understanding WIC requirements when referring your patient to WIC for a medical formula or nutritional.

Medi-Cal Prior Authorization

The United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service requires WIC to be the payor of last resort for medical formulas and nutritionals. WIC only provides medical formulas or nutritionals to WIC patients if they do not have Medi-Cal coverage or their prescribed medical formula or nutritional product is not covered by Medi-Cal or private insurance. If your WIC patient has Medi-Cal, then submit a Medi-Cal Prior Authorization for the prescribed product to Medi-Cal for approval.

WIC Medical Documentation Requirements

To obtain any of the following from WIC, a WIC patient must have complete medical documentation from an HCP with prescriptive authority:

- Medical formula or WIC eligible nutritional.
- Increased formula in exchange for no WIC foods for infants six months or older.
- Jarred infant fruits and vegetables for children one to five years of age.

The medical documentation can be in the form of, but is not limited to:

- The WIC [Medical Formula and Nutritionals Request Form](#) (MFRF).
- Prescription pad.
- Hospital discharge papers.

Complete medical documentation must include all the following information to be processed by WIC:

- Participant's first and last name.
- Qualifying diagnosis(es), which can be found on the back of the [Medical Formula and Nutritionals Request Form](#).
- Name(s) of the medical formula or nutritionals for the stated qualifying diagnosis.
- Formula amount needed per day and duration prescribed in months.
- WIC authorized food restrictions, if applicable.
- Signature (or signature stamp) and contact information of the HCP.
- Date medical documentation was signed by the HCP.



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CDPH/WIC requires new medical documentation every six (6) months, or less if specified on medical documentation, when starting to receive foods at six (6) months and one (1) year of age, and when there is a change in the medical formula or nutritional prescribed.

CDPH/WIC will not approve any formula or nutritional based on the following conditions:

- Colic, constipation, diarrhea, spitting up, picky eater, poor appetite, cramps, fussiness, or gas.
- Solely for the purposes of enhancing nutrient intake or managing body weight without an underlying condition.
- Non-specific formula intolerance or food intolerance.
- Patient/caregiver preference or food dislikes.

Please view our five-minute [HCP Training Video](#) for more information on WIC requirements for requesting a medical formula or nutritional.

The Medical Formula and Nutritionals Request Form

HCPs are encouraged to use the new WIC [Medical Formula and Nutritionals Request Form](#) when referring a patient to WIC specifically for a prescribed medical formula or nutritional. This online fillable PDF form replaces the [Pediatric Referral Form](#) for requesting medical formulas through WIC. Only use the new [Pediatric Referral Form](#) to refer infants or children to WIC, not to request medical formulas or nutritionals. Be aware that the [Medical Formula and Nutritionals Request Form](#) is an official CDPH document and should not be altered in any way.

The WIC Formulas and Nutritionals list

The [WIC Formulas and Nutritionals List](#) is a list of formulas CDPH/WIC can provide, categorized by standard state contracted formulas, medical formulas, and nutritionals and further categorized by indications for use. If you are prescribing a medical formula or nutritional to a WIC patient that is not on the [WIC Formulas and Nutritionals List](#), please contact Formula@cdph.ca.gov first to see if that product can be approved by WIC.

WIC's HCP Webpage

Visit our website at www.wicworks.ca.gov and click *Health Care Providers* for more information on WIC formulas, referral forms, and services. HCPs can download the fillable pdf [Medical Formula and Nutritionals Request Form](#), access the [WIC Formulas and Nutritionals List](#), or view the [HCP Training Video](#) under the WIC Formulas section.

Thank you,

Chris Sullivan

Christine Sullivan, Chief
WIC Division