

# WIC

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **My child needs a formula that's not on the Kentucky WIC Formulary. Is that possible?**

Yes, it may be possible, but please be aware that processing a request for a formula not in the formulary typically takes at least several weeks. In addition to obtaining information about the product for state approval and having a pharmacy or facility order the product for the patient, **Kentucky** WIC must get the product information entered into the electronics benefits transfer system so that the client can obtain the product using her eWIC Card. Not all formulas on the market are approved for use by **Kentucky** WIC. State office staff must approve new product additions.

### **What are some of the reasons a formula request might be denied?**

A formula request might be denied for various reasons, including:

- the requested formula is not an authorized product or container size in **Kentucky** .
- the requested formula is for weight gain only with no additional medical diagnosis.
- the requested formula is not indicated for the diagnosis provided.
- a standard contract formula must be tried first, and there is no current medical contraindication to trying a contract formula.

But do keep in mind, WIC is able to approve most requests based on appropriate reasons for issuance.

### **How are formula benefits provided to WIC Participants?**

After becoming certified, WIC participants get their food and formula via an electronic benefits transfer system. Each WIC family is issued a card similar to a credit card, and the family's benefits (designated amounts of foods and formula) are loaded on the card. Then the participant takes her eWIC Card to any grocery store that accepts WIC benefits. Participants can typically get standard formulas at most grocery stores, but some formulas must be ordered by a pharmacy.

### **Why can't WIC provide more formula for infants if they need more?**

The WIC program is a supplemental food program, and Federal Regulations mandate the maximum amounts formula that WIC can provide to participants. WIC staff members advise mothers that the program provides a limited amount of formula, and they encourage new mothers to breastfeed whenever they are together with their babies.

**I have a one-year-old that the doctor thinks would benefit from reduced-fat cow's milk. Can I get it from WIC?**

Yes, a child between 1 and 2 years old can be issued reduced fat milk with proper medical documentation or upon the health providers assessment.