



4 FOOD PACKAGE/FI ISSUANCE
4.14 Infant Food Packages (Regular)

Effective: 3/1/98
Revised: 8/1/09

POLICY: Food packages for infants shall be selected according to infant category, age, and nutritional needs and preferences. The Full Nutritional Benefit (FNB) must be provided, except for breastfed infants. For policies pertaining to exempt formulas for infants, see policy 4.15, Prescription-Required Foods and Food Packages.

BACKGROUND:

Contract for Infant Formula Rebate

The Wisconsin WIC Program contracts with, as required by Federal WIC Regulations, a single manufacturer to be the provider of standard milk- and soy-based formulas. These formulas contain at least 10 mg iron per liter and 20 kilocalories per fluid ounce. Rebates for the contract formula, which are used to enroll more children and women in WIC, support approximately 30% of the WIC caseload. There are no exceptions for the provision of standard formulas made by other manufacturers.

Contract for Infant Cereal

The Wisconsin WIC Program contracts with a single manufacturer to be the provider of infant cereal. See policy 4.2 for the approval criteria (e.g., nutrient content and container size) and the WIC Approved Food List for the currently approved brand and specific kinds/packaging of infant cereal.

Breastfeeding Support and Formula Quantities

The Federal *Interim Rule, Revisions to the WIC Food Packages* was issued December 6, 2007. The Rule revises WIC food packages to be consistent with the recommendations made by the National Academies' Institute of Medicine (IOM) in its report, *WIC Food Packages – Time for a Change*. This includes infant feeding recommendations consistent with those made by professional organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics. The new Rule places increased emphasis on breastfeeding support by limiting the amount of formula in order to help protect the mother's milk supply, and by providing more foods to the older fully breastfed baby and the breastfeeding mother. Also, the Full Nutritional Benefit (FNB) for formula, i.e., the maximum quantities, is based on breastfeeding status and nutritional need for age, with the most being provided at 4-5 months of age and the least at 6-11 months of age when other baby foods are provided.

Infant Categories

There are 4 infant categories, based on infant feeding status:

Fully breastfed: no formula from WIC

Mostly breastfed: no more than 1 can powder formula (104 fl oz or less) in the first month; then no more than a half formula package

Some breastfed: more than a half formula package

Full formula fed: full formula package



Baby Foods

Infant cereal, baby fruits and vegetables, and, if the infant is fully breastfed, baby meats, are generally provided at 6 months of age (see exception in Policy 3.15), as recommended by the Institute of Medicine. At this age, most infants are developmentally ready and likely to consume the amount provided in the food packages. ROSIE includes an automatic progression in food package production that adds these foods at 6 months. See policy 4.2 for the criteria for approval criteria for baby fruits, vegetables, and meats (e.g., ingredients and container sizes). See the WIC Approved Food List for currently approved products.

PROCEDURE:

A. INFANT FOOD PACKAGE includes infants birth up to one year of age who do not qualify for Prescription-Required Food Packages (i.e., for exempt infant formulas).

1. The maximum monthly allowances for infants based on infant category and age are indicated on *Reference Sheet #1: General Food Packages* (in ROSIE Help) and in *Infant Formulas – Contract Standard* (P-a40077A, in the WIC web site). These amounts may not be exceeded. Quantities of supplemental formula for breastfed infants must be prescribed by a CPA. See Policies 4.10 and 4.13.
2. There are model food packages for both milk- and soy-based powder standard contract formula; for each Infant Category (Fully Formula Fed, Some Breastfed, Mostly Breastfed, and Fully Breastfed); and for each age grouping (0-3 months, 0-<1 month, 1-3 months, 4-5 months, and 6-11 months). Model packages for partially breastfed infants (both Some Breastfed and Mostly Breastfed) include 1 can powder formula. The quantity may be increased as stated in A.1., except for breastfed infants during the first month; the maximum is one can.

B. FOOD PACKAGE SELECTION

1. Select the appropriate model package:
 - a) Select the package based on Infant Category (Fully Formula Fed, Some Breastfed, Mostly Breastfed, or Fully Breastfed) and age (0-<1 month, 1-3 months, 4-5 months, and 6-11 months).
 - b) Select milk-based formula unless there is a need for a soy-based formula, e.g., allergy to cow milk protein, vegetarian diets, galactosemia, hereditary lactase deficiency, lactose intolerance (though rare in infancy).

NOTE: soy-based formula should NOT be prescribed for prevention or management of colic, prevention of atopic disease (e.g., asthma, allergic rhinitis, eczema), cow milk protein-induced enteropathy or enterocolitis



(instead, a formula with hydrolyzed protein or synthetic amino acid such as Nutramigen should be used), preterm and weight <1800 gm. Most previously well infants with acute gastroenteritis can be managed after rehydration with breast milk or cow milk-based formula.). For more information on soy-based formula, see Committee on Nutrition: Soy Protein-based Formulas: Recommendations for Use in Infant Feeding. *Pediatrics* 1998;101(1):148-153.

2. Modify the model package, if needed:
 - a) If the caregiver requests concentrate, this may be provided, though the reconstituted quantity is less (see *Reference Sheet #1: General Food Packages* on WICPRO).
 - b) If the caregiver requests ready-to-feed (RTF) formula, see Policy 4.18, Ready-to-Feed Formulas and Medical Foods. Issuance of RTF is allowed under limited circumstances.
 - c) If the caregiver is currently giving or is requesting a non-contract standard formula, reassure the caregiver that all standard formulas are nutritionally equivalent and provide the contract formula. If the caregiver claims the contract formula was not tolerated, encourage trying the contract formula again (e.g., mixing the contract formula with the non-contract and increasing the proportion of contract formula over time) since infants' digestive systems continue to mature. If the caregiver refuses to accept the contract formula, encourage the caregiver to come back again in the future to try contract formula again and for infant cereal and baby foods. Assure that the caregiver knows formula can be purchased with FoodShare benefits. Refer to a food pantry, if needed.
 - d) If the caregiver is requesting an exempt infant formula, see Policy 4.15, Prescription-Required Foods and Food Packages.

C. CEREAL AND BABY FOODS

1. ROSIE has a built-in "food package progression" for the introduction of infant cereal and baby foods at 6 months of age. These may not be provided before 6 months of age.
2. If the CPA wishes to delay addition of cereals and baby foods, check the box "No Auto Cereal/Inf Foods" on the Benefits tab in ROSIE.

D. TRANSITION TO CHILD PACKAGE



Food Package/FI Issuance

1. When a child turns one, ROSIE automatically changes the infant package to a child food package with whole milk, unless the CPA prescribes otherwise. Infants at 11½ months of age (food instrument issuance is within 15 days of their birthday) may be issued a child food package.

NOTES:

Available resources:

USDA: [Infant Nutrition and Feeding: A Guide for Use in the WIC and CSF Programs](http://www.nal.usda.gov/wicworks/Topics/Infant_Feeding_Guide.html)
(go to http://www.nal.usda.gov/wicworks/Topics/Infant_Feeding_Guide.html)