



**4 FOOD PACKAGE/FI ISSUANCE**

*Effective: 3/1/98*

**4.18 Ready-to-Feed Formulas and Medical Foods**

*Revised: 8/1/09*

**POLICY:** WIC-approved ready-to-feed formulas (standard and exempt) and medical foods may be issued in limited circumstances only and when a CPA approves. If the product is not available at a WIC-approved grocery store or pharmacy, a WIC-approved pharmacy is required to order it.

**PROCEDURE:**

**A. APPROVED READY-TO-FEED FORMULAS AND MEDICAL FOODS**

The WIC-approved ready-to-feed products are included in the listings of all the approved formulas (standard contract and exempt) and medical foods in WICPRO (P-40077A through D) and in ROSIE Help (Reference Sheet #1 and #2).

**B. DETERMINATION OF NEED.** Ready-to-feed formulas and medical foods may be issued only if the CPA determines one of the following conditions.

1. The water has been deemed unsanitary or restricted by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or the local health department. Typical reasons for unsafe water are a nitrate count greater than 10 mg/liter (unsafe for infants less than 6 months of age), and a high bacterial count. Bad taste, cloudiness, etc., are NOT acceptable reasons for issuing ready-to-feed. In such cases, if the family chooses not to use the water, city water may be bottled and obtained for family use as well as for formula preparation.
2. The participant or person caring for this participant may have difficulty correctly diluting the product. If education is needed, the goal should be to issue powdered or concentrated formula within three to six months.
3. The WIC-approved product is available only in the ready-to-feed form.
4. For prescription-required formulas and medical foods, two additional conditions apply:
  - a) RTF better accommodates the participant's condition, and
  - b) RTF will improve the participant's compliance in consuming the prescribed product.

**C. APPROVALS and DOCUMENTATION**

1. CPA approval is required to issue a contract ready-to-feed standard formula.



2. If a prescription-required product in ready-to-feed form is requested, also follow the policy and procedures in Policy 4.15 prescription-Required Food Packages.
3. Unless the product is available only in ready-to-feed form, document the rationale for the provision of ready-to-feed formula in the ROSIE Care Plan.

**D. AVAILABILITY FOR PURCHASE**

1. Ready-to-feed formulas and medical foods are generally available at WIC-approved grocery stores.
2. If the formula or medical food is not available at a WIC-approved grocery store, the participant needs to purchase the formula at a WIC-approved pharmacy. If availability at a pharmacy is uncertain, either the participant or the Project needs to call the pharmacy before shopping to assure the formula is available. If the pharmacy does not stock the formula, they are required by their agreement with the WIC Program to order it for the participant.

**E. REASSESSMENT.** The need for ready-to-feed formula must be reassessed at the Infant Update and subsequent certifications and documented in the participant's file.