## **DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Tony Evers Governor



State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services 1 WEST WILSON STREET PO BOX 2659 MADISON WI 53701-2659

Telephone: 608-266-1251 Fax: 608-267-2832 TTY: 711 or 800-947-3529

Kirsten L. Johnson Secretary

Date: May 1, 2025

To: Colleagues caring for infants and children

I am writing to bring you an update on Wisconsin's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). WIC is a valued program that serves those who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or postpartum, as well as infants and children up to age 5. WIC helps families stay healthy by providing nutrition education, breastfeeding support, healthy foods, and referrals to health services and other resources.

Your continued assistance in supporting WIC, specifically regarding the promotion of breastfeeding throughout an infant's first year of life, is greatly appreciated. However, for those who do not fully breastfeed, WIC continues to provide infant formula. The objective of this letter is to review the formulas available through the Wisconsin WIC program, including formula additions and changes to our forms.

Federal WIC regulations require states to contract with one manufacturer for the routine provision of standard formulas; Abbott Nutrition is the current supplier for Wisconsin. Contract standard formulas are available without a medical request to partially breastfed and fully formula-fed infants from birth to 12 months of age. A list of these formulas can be found on our website, www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wic/professionals.htm.

Wisconsin WIC also offers medical formulas available by request when a formula's composition is part of the treatment for a child's specific medical condition. Requests for medical formulas are submitted to the local WIC agency via the Wisconsin WIC Request for Medical Formula/Food – Infants and Children form. Next, the WIC agency dietitian approves the request based on the WIC formulary and the nutrition assessment. Request forms, use indications, and maximum allowance for all infant formulas and child medical foods can be found on our website, www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wic/professionals.htm.

Effective May 1, 2025, two additional formulas were added to the WIC medical formula list. Kate Farms Pediatric Standard 1.2 is designed for children ages 1–13 years old and is a plant based, dairy free, nutritionally complete formula. Neocate Syneo Infant is a hypoallergenic formula with prebiotics and probiotics, specifically designed for infants with food allergies and is a nutritionally complete formula for infants 0–12 months.

Thank you for your partnership in helping children get the best chance to optimally grow, develop, reach their potential, and enjoy what life has to offer.

Sincerely,

Jasmine Zapata MD, MPH, FAAP Chief Medical Officer, Bureau of Community Health Promotion and

Kari Malone MPH, RDN, CD State WIC Director

Contact Kaila Baer, WIC Nutrition Services Coordinator, at <u>kaila.baer@dhs.wisconsin.gov</u> with questions.

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