



KANSAS WIC INFORMATION MEMORANDUM
KANSAS-WIC-I-2016-07

TO: Parent and Sub-Agencies

FROM: Dave Thomason
Nutrition & WIC Services Director

DATE: April 25, 2016

RE: Food Package-Formula Abbott Alimentum Change
FDA Press Release- Infant Rice Cereal
Submitting Affidavits
Mileage Reimbursement
Breastfeeding: Breastpump End of SFY Ordering
Training: "WIC 101" will be unavailable after May 2 (part of new employee training through KS TRAIN)
Training: Additional Educational Opportunities

Food Package – Formula Abbott Alimentum Change

This information first appeared in the January I-memo. At that time different dates were provided about when the new smaller Alimentum sizes would be available in local grocery stores. Abbott has provided a new update to that information.

Similac Alimentum (Powder) is changing container sizes and labels. The current 16 ounce powder container is being converted to a 12.1 ounce container. The new size yields 87 reconstituted fluid ounces. The product will have a new UPC code and old container sizes will be removed from retailers' shelves. This product change requires new food packages that include Alimentum to be placed in KWIC. Food packages for selection of both container sizes started Feb. 11, 2016 and will continue until July 5, 2016 to allow for this transition. The smaller container size will be available on most vendor shelves after May 16, 2016. Previously Abbott thought that Dillons would not have this product until June but the date has been moved up for all vendors. This means that checks that begin May 16, 2016 or after, should be issued for the 12.1 ounce size Alimentum powder. You will not be able to select already tailored food packages but must retailor. Be sure to tell clients that they may need to come back to the clinic and get checks for a different size product during this transition time especially those who now have checks for Dillons. Abbott says they will also be providing information to retailers and trying to stock pediatrician offices a little more so that no client will need to go without.

A handout is included with a picture of the new container size and information about availability at Walmart and Dillon's. Please provide this information to clients/caregivers when checks with the new container sizes are issued. The handout also includes NeoSure information which was only a label change. If possible, print this in color for clients. If you have questions about availability at other vendors, please contact Janna Gunckle jgunckle@kdheks.gov or Valerie Merrow vmerrow@kdheks.gov

ACTION REQUIRED: Inform all staff of upcoming changes. Print the handout for distribution to clients or caregivers receiving checks with Alimentum. Retailor these food packages as necessary.

FDA Press Release- proposes limit for inorganic arsenic in infant rice cereal

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced on April 1, 2016 it was taking steps to cut inorganic arsenic levels in infant rice cereal, a primary source of arsenic exposure in infants. Exposure to inorganic arsenic in infants and pregnant women can result in decreased performance by children on developmental tests that measure speech and learning. The FDA is proposing a limit of 100 parts per billion (ppb) in the cereal, in line with the level set by the European Commission for rice intended for infants and young children. Only 47 percent of infant rice cereals sampled from retail stores in 2014 met the agency's proposed level, while about 78 percent were at or below 110 ppb, the FDA said (<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm493740.htm>). Please see the attached letter from Gerber in response to the FDA's announcement. Gerber assures that prior to the FDA's announcement Gerber rice cereals met the European Union (EU) limit for arsenic in rice used in foods for infants and young children which is consistent with the level proposed by the FDA.

ACTION REQUIRED: Inform all staff of the FDA announcement and Gerber's response and share as appropriate with clients to answer questions and/or address concerns regarding infant rice cereal.

Submitting Affidavits

Erin Hubbard is our newest State Agency team member who started in March as a Program Consultant. She will be overseeing the statewide fiscal aspects of the Local Agency WIC program. Please send all future affidavits to her at ehubbard@kdheks.gov or if you have questions regarding fiscal aspects, you may reach her at (785) 291-3134. She will also be a team member conducting Local Agency Management Evaluations in the future, so watch for future changes in Management Evaluation team assignments.

ACTION REQUIRED: Notify all WIC staff as well as other Health Department or County staff who are involved with providing affidavits to the WIC Program.

Mileage Reimbursement

Just as a reminder, effective January 1, 2016, the maximum allowed reimbursement for business miles changed. The maximum allowed WIC reimbursement for Calendar Year 2016 will be .54 cents per mile.

Each Local Agency should change their affidavit spreadsheet to reflect what their agency allows up to the new maximum.

If you have questions, contact Rachelle Hazelton at (785) 296-1328 or by email at rhazelton@kdheks.gov.

ACTION REQUIRED: Notify all WIC staff as well as other Health Department or County staff who are involved with providing affidavits to the WIC Program.

Breastfeeding: Breastpump End of SFY Ordering

Check your breastpump and breastpump equipment supplies! No items will be approved for purchase after Friday, May 6 until July 1, due to the end of the state fiscal year. All invoices and reimbursement requests must be to Martha Hagen at the state office by June 1, 2016.

ACTION REQUIRED: Please do not stockpile but place a realistic order. Contact Martha Hagen at mhagen@kdheks.gov for order approval **before** placing the order.

Training: “WIC 101” will be unavailable after May 2 (part of new employee training through KS TRAIN)

(This item is a repeat of an email sent April 18, 2016.) As part of new employee training, we work through the national TRAIN system to access some of the USDA WIC Learning Online (WLOL) courses. (Refer to the Kansas WIC Training Completion Sheets that guide training for new Kansas WIC employees.) To ensure the most up-to-date information is provided to users, and that users can more easily access and run WLOL courses on their systems, USDA is updating existing WLOL courses (both content and the platform used).

As of 4 pm Central Time on May 2, 2016, the “WIC 101” course will be temporarily unavailable. The updated WIC 101 course is expected to be available at the end of May, although since Kansas coordinates through the TRAIN system, it may be longer. Your patience as the courses are being revised is appreciated. Other courses will be updated later in the summer, and you will be notified of any downtime for these courses.

ACTION REQUIRED: New Kansas WIC employees should try to finish “WIC 101” in KS TRAIN by May 2. New employees that start after May 2 should make a note on their Completion Sheet that the course is unavailable. After May 2, KWIC security clearance may be requested if that is the only Level 1 course missing. Watch for a future notice that the “WIC 101” is available again on KS TRAIN and complete the course at that time. Questions? Contact Patrice Thomsen using pthomsen@kdheks.gov or 785-296-1189.

Training: Additional Educational Opportunities

- 2016 National Maternal Nutrition Intensive Course – *on-site and on-line options available*. Topics include:
 - Opioid and Marijuana Use During Pregnancy and Lactation
 - Support for Families of Infants with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
 - Effects of Depression on Nutrition and Weight in Pregnancy
 - Nutrition as an Integral Part of Preconception and Interconception Care for Women
 - Influencing Eating Behaviors of Parents and Children: Marketing & Labeling Policies and Behavioral Economic Strategies
 - Microbiome and Obesity
 - Taste Preferences and Feeding Behaviors of Parents & Young Children
 - Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Guidelines
 - Talking about Nutrition and Weight Before and Between Pregnancies



Distance education options are available for certain sessions. Up to 12 CEUs are available for distance viewers. The distance education program will be available from September 1 through November 30, 2016. Additional information about the program, along with registration materials, can be found on the [web site](#).

Notice that the on-line distance program fee is only \$20 per person – basically to cover the continuing education cost. Review registration information on the website. Note that if several at one agency want to participate as a group, you should contact Chris Carlstrom for registration instructions. carls020@umn.edu | 612-624-3024

Do you want to be on **the National Maternal Nutrition Intensive Course mailing list**? To **opt in to their new list** [sign up here](#) .

- Kansas WIC New Employee Breastfeeding Training -“Using Loving Support to Grow and Glow in WIC”. All new employees are required to attend Loving Support training. WIC Coordinators may choose to wait and send new employees to the nearest training, as long as the person will have been employed in WIC for less than one year by the time they attend.
 - Topeka – June 2, 2016 (See details in [March I-memo](#).)
 - Wichita – November 2016 (exact date to be determined)
- The Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc. is offering nine breastfeeding information classes in various locations around Kansas throughout 2016. The **FREE** workshop covers the following topics which are important for any health care professional who support

breastfeeding dyads: Wide Range of Normal in the Breastfed Baby; Teaching Mothers Optimal Latch and Positioning Techniques; Reducing the Rate of Formula Supplementation. The workshop is approximately 4 ½ hours long and is approved for continuing education credits for nurses, licensed dietitians and IBCLCs. Use this opportunity to network and invite others in your community - hospital staff, physician office staff, Healthy Start Home Visitors, etc. to attend this training. For sites and registration information use the following link. <http://ksbreastfeeding.org/breastfeeding-101/>

- An online breastfeeding continuing education tutorial titled: “Expanding Pediatricians' Roles in Breastfeeding Support Continuing Medical Education (CME) Online Tutorial” is available. There is no charge for this tutorial. To access the program, click on or cut and paste this link into your browser: <http://www.northeastern.edu/breastfeedingcme/index.html>
- National WIC Association conferences <https://www.nwica.org/>
 - **NWA 2016 Annual Education and Training Conference & Exhibits will be held at the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati, OH, May 22 - May 25, 2016.** This Conference will offer an excellent opportunity to acquire new skills and to network with an estimated 1,000 of your peers, colleagues and exhibitors who provide WIC related products and services for your participants. The conference will also offer an opportunity for attendees to hear from USDA officials and to dialogue on relevant updates and challenges that the program faces. For the rest of the conference, you will have the opportunity to choose from 27 general and concurrent sessions that are sure to expand your professional skills and knowledgebase to equip you to face coming WIC challenges and to take advantage of current and future WIC opportunities.
 - **The NWA Biennial Nutrition Education and Breastfeeding Conference will be held at the Sheraton Downtown Hotel in Denver, CO from September 8 - 10, 2016.** This conference is the most popular gathering of the **WIC nutrition and breastfeeding professionals** in the US, attracting more than 1,200 staff from USDA, state and local WIC agencies. Education sessions will cover current and emerging nutrition and breastfeeding science, research, policy and best practices. Poster Sessions and special forums will offer additional learning and networking opportunities. More than 40 exhibitors will be on hand to provide the latest on WIC-related products, technology and services.

ACTION REQUIRED: Share information with appropriate WIC staff about these continuing education opportunities. WIC staff is encouraged to attend additional nutrition and breastfeeding trainings and conferences. Consider sending appropriate WIC staff to trainings and conferences according to your local agency training needs and as the local agency budget allows. The SA encourages WIC staff, if appropriate, to also obtain funding through - [ADM 11.02.00 Financial Support for Local Agency On-Going Training](#).

This policy provides information on the possibility of obtaining financial support from the SA for additional training. Be aware that the policy specifies that staff time is not covered in these special funds. Appropriate staff time would be covered under regular WIC funds or other county

WIC-I-2016-07

April 25, 2016

Page 6 of 6

funds as approved by supervisor. If additional regular WIC funds are needed for staff time, contact your SA lead for guidance.

If you have any questions regarding this memo, please contact the state staff member assigned to your agency.

Items:

- Abbott Formula Change Handout
- Gerber letter regarding infant rice cereal

Coming Soon!

New Look starting March 2016



New Look and New Size



- Starting 5/16/16, **Wal-Mart** will carry the new smaller size Alimentum (12.1 oz container)
- Starting 5/16/16 **Dillon's** and most other stores will carry the new smaller size Alimentum (12.1 oz container)

Gerber

12 Vreeland Road • Box 697
Florham Park, New Jersey 07932-0697

Tina Ewing
Director, WIC Business Strategy



April 1, 2016

Dear WIC Director:

You may be aware that the FDA released new information about the possible health effects to infants and children from consuming arsenic that may be present in infant rice cereal. We recognize this news may be concerning and want to reassure you Gerber® infant rice cereal is safe and already meets the level proposed by the FDA.

Parents carefully consider every spoonful that goes into baby's mouth, and so do we. We place the health and well-being of baby above all else, and work with ingredient suppliers to ensure our foods are wholesome and safe for babies.

Arsenic is a naturally occurring element in soil and water and therefore is present in grains and produce. We have worked closely with our trusted rice supplier and their growers as well as researchers from agricultural universities to achieve some of the lowest levels of this element in U.S. grown rice. Through these combined actions we already meet the level proposed by the FDA. Prior to the FDA's announcement Gerber rice cereals met the European Union (EU) limit for arsenic in rice used in foods for infants and young children which is consistent with the level proposed by the FDA. Gerber supports the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) on-going efforts to ensure the safety of the food supply. The EU standard and the FDA proposed guidance are among the strictest and most current available in the world today.

Iron-fortified infant cereals are an important part of the WIC Food package for infants from 6-12 months of age. Use of infant cereals helps ensure infants get an adequate intake of iron to support neurocognitive development and to help prevent iron deficiency. Iron deficiency as you know can lead to anemia, developmental delays and decreased cognitive performance, some of which may persist well into older childhood. Our 2008 Feeding and Infant Toddlers Study (FITS) highlights the fact that WIC children between the ages of 6-9 months have higher intake of iron fortified cereal when compared to children who are not a part of the WIC program. This is clearly one of the successes of the WIC Program. Given the importance of iron-fortified cereal we recommend infants continue to consume infant cereal from a variety of grains, through twelve months of age to ensure adequate intakes of iron. This is consistent with the American Academy of Pediatrics guidance.

Generations of babies have benefited from Gerber® infant cereals, including many infants participating in the WIC program. Gerber offers several varieties of WIC eligible infant cereals, including oatmeal, multigrain, wheat, and rice.

If you or your program participants have questions regarding Gerber infant cereals please feel free to contact our Parent Resource Center at 1-800-487-7763.

Sincerely,



Tina Ewing
Director, WIC Business Strategy