

Therapeutic Formula Q&A

- 1) Q: Is milk protein intolerance/allergy an acceptable qualifying condition?**
A: Yes, milk protein intolerance/allergy is an acceptable qualifying condition for the Food Allergy Diagnosis.
- 2) Q: If a participant has a prescription (Rx) for Nutramigen without a diagnosis (Dx), do we have to wait until we receive a Dx to issue formula? Can we issue one month?**
A: No, you cannot issue a therapeutic formula without a diagnosis of milk intolerance/allergy or a medical qualifying condition per federal regulations.
- 3) Q: Do you have a template consent form?**
A: CDPH/WIC has a standard consent release form, which you may obtain from your contract manager or nutrition consultant.
- 4) Q: Can you give solid/infant foods to premature infants without a Rx?**
A: Yes, but with two considerations. 1) the health care provider has not provided a Rx limiting that infant's solid food intake; and 2) The infant shows **all** the following signs of readiness for starting solid food including: the infant can sit up without support and hold their head steady, they can keep food in their mouth, swallow it, and does not push food out of mouth with the tongue, they put fingers in their mouth, they show interest in food and opens their mouth wide for a spoon. It is highly recommended when considering feeding infant foods to the premature infant to take into consideration their corrected age.
- 5) Q: Where can families find which vendors/retail stores provide specific formulas?**
A: On our [Therapeutic Formula webpage](#), go to Formula Product Information, you or the family can visit the manufacturer's website and search for store locator. The participant may want to call the store to confirm actual inventory on hand and may request the store to put it on hold for them to come and purchase.
- 6) Q: According to WPPM 390-10, we are not allowed to change the formula without a new Rx or verbal from the health care provider, regardless of the provider. For example, can an infant that has an Rx for Nutramigen concentrate change to Similac Sensitive at mom's request?**
A: Regardless of who provides the therapeutic formula, medical documentation, or a completed Pediatric Referral Form (PRF) is required for a formula change, if Rx is still valid. If you do not receive medical documentation, then you still need to verify the previous medical documentation with the health care provider before you change to a different therapeutic formula or contract formula. If the health care provider gives a verbal response, a completed PRF is required within two weeks.
- 7) Q: Is it okay to issue foods with a verbal statement from the parent/caretaker if the baby is getting therapeutic formula from another provider.**
A: You must obtain a new PRF indicating WIC food restrictions, if any, for infants at 6 months of age and children at 1 year of age, regardless of who is providing the therapeutic formula. If the health care provider gives a verbal response, a completed PRF is required within two weeks.

- 8) **Q: If the health care provider writes a Rx for a premature infant for up to a year, do we or do we not need a new Rx every three months, or can we accept that Rx for the length that provider wrote?**
A: Per WPPM 390-10, issuance of any therapeutic formula or WIC-eligible nutritionals to WIC participants requires new PRF for infants at 6 months of age and for children at 1 year of age.
- 9) **Q: Weaning a baby from one formula to another (such as from a non-contract standard formula to a contract standard formula). Is there a resource about a weaning standards participant handout/troubleshooting guide, or job aid? If so, where can I access that resource?**
A: The link below provides a resource on discussing formula changes with a participant. The document can be found on CDPH/WIC Local Agency SharePoint Site under Food Package Resources/Therapeutic Formula Resources:
[WIC Formula-Changing to a New Formula](#)
- 10) **Q: In the past, the PRF has been highly encouraged for therapeutic formula issuance, but was not required, if other medical documentation contained all the required information. Is this still acceptable?**
A: Yes, as long as the medical documentation has all the required information for therapeutic formula issuance is required (see WPPM 390-10).
- 11) **Q: Is a contract formula for a child over 12 months considered a therapeutic formula?**
A: No, a contract formula is not considered a therapeutic formula. However, the process to issue a contract formula to a child over 12 months is the same as the therapeutic formula process and requires a completed PRF from their health care provider.