

# Therapeutic Formula Questions and Answers (Q & A)

**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.

**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 food instruments (FIs)? 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.

**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.

**Q: Can you give solid/infant foods to premature infants without a Rx?**

A: Yes, unless their health care provider has written an Rx with infant food restrictions stating the infant should not have solid/infant foods.

**Q: How can we search to find which vendors provide specific formulas?**

A: On our [Therapeutic Formula webpage](#), you can visit the manufacturer's website and search for store locator\*. You may provide a copy of the various store locations that carry a specific therapeutic formula. You should not recommend specific vendors nor show vendor preference.

*\*The participant may want to call the store to confirm actual inventory on hand, and may want the store to put it on hold for them to come and purchase.*

**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, an infant has an Rx for Nutramigen concentrate but the mom comes in to change the infant formula to Enfamil Gentlease.**

A: Regardless of who is providing 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.

- Q: It was stated during the webinar that it is OK 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.
- 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.
- 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 [WIC Formula-Changing to a New Formula](#) guide 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.
- Q: In the past, the PRF has been highly encouraged, but was not required, as long as other medical documentation contained all of the required information. Is this still acceptable?**
- A: A completed PRF is always required; however, if a participant's medical documentation has all the information that is required (as stated in WPPM 390-10), it will suffice, and the participant may be issued one month of therapeutic formula. A completed PRF from the health care provider is required at the participant's next appointment before any additional therapeutic formula can be issued.
- 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. The process to issue a contract formula to a child over 12 months old is the same as the therapeutic formula process and requires a completed PRF from their health care provider.