
Purpose To provide guidance on the appropriate issuance of ready-to-feed formula to WIC clients.

Allowance of Ready-to-Feed Formula WIC agencies must issue WIC contract formulas in concentrated liquid or powder physical forms unless requirements for issuing RTF are met. Ready-to-feed WIC formula may be authorized **only** when the following conditions are met:

- Unsanitary water supply, including supplies that have high nitrate or pathogenic bacteria content, or restricted access to a safe water supply.
- ◆ The State WIC office will notify local agencies when a community water supply in their local agency service area has been issued a nitrate violation notice that requires the issuance of ready-to-feed infant formula.
- ◆ Local agency staff should determine the source of water used for infants residing on farms or unincorporated communities. If the source of water is a private well, ask if the well has been tested and if the testing was done within the last year. If the water has not been tested, local agency staff may recommend that it be tested. Guidance on water testing is included at the end of this procedure.
- Caregiver with a limited ability to correctly prepare powder or concentrate formula.
- The formula is only available in ready-to-feed form.

Ready-to-feed formula should not be issued for the convenience of the parent or guardian.

Documentation Requirement The CPA must document in the client's chart the reason for issuance of ready-to-feed formula.

Allowance of Ready-To-Feed Formula in Food Package III Infants and children receiving special and/or medical formulas in Food Package III may be issued the ready-to-feed physical form in the following two additional conditions:

Allowance of Ready-To-Feed Formula in Food Package III (cont.)

- If a ready-to-feed form better accommodate the participant's condition
- If the ready-to-feed improves the participant's compliance in consuming the prescribed WIC formula

The prescription on the Physician Authorization Form for the formula must also indicate the need and reason for ready-to-feed. Convenience for the parent or guardian is not a valid reason for issuing ready-to-feed formula. The CPA must make this determination and document in the client's chart.

Guidance on Water Testing

It is recommended that private well water be tested annually for nitrates and pathogenic bacteria.

Private well water testing for nitrates and/or pathogenic bacteria can be performed for a fee by:

State Health Laboratory
3701 South 14th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68502

A list of other state-approved laboratories is available from the State Health Laboratory.

Water sample bottles are available from the State Health Lab and many local health departments and county extension agents. Instructions are included with each container.

Clients may phone the State Health Lab at (402) 471-2122 with questions or for more information.
