

# Patients who Require Therapeutic Formula for a Medical Condition

## Guidance for Providers

The WIC Program promotes and supports breastfeeding as the normative standard for infant feeding and nutrition. WIC recognizes that some infants and children will need a formula to treat problems caused by prematurity, acute or chronic medical conditions, severe allergies, failure to thrive and very poor weight gain.

For your patient who requires a therapeutic formula for a medical condition, WIC provides support, counseling and other WIC foods when appropriate. WIC does not provide formulas for medical conditions for your patients with Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care plans. These plans pay for most therapeutic formulas.

How to help your patient obtain the medically necessary formula you prescribe:

1. Verify that there is an appropriate **QUALIFYING CONDITION** and that this formula is medically necessary.
2. Provide your patient with the **NECESSARY AUTHORIZATION** or referral for coverage by Medi-Cal or Medi-Cal Managed Care:
  - For infants and children on **Medi-Cal Managed Care** (health plan): Submit an Authorization/Referral to the child's Medi-Cal Managed Care plan for the formula you are prescribing. Have your patient take the Authorization to the plan pharmacy.
    - Note: WIC continues to provide the family with other services, such as nutrition education and other WIC foods, while the patient is getting the therapeutic formula through Medi-Cal.
  - For infants and children on **Fee-For-Service Medi-Cal**: Provide your patient with a prescription or Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) for the formula you are prescribing. Have your patient take it to a pharmacy that accepts Medi-Cal.
3. The WIC Program requires a WIC **PEDIATRIC REFERRAL FORM** (PRF), signed by the provider, for patients receiving therapeutic formula from any source. This enables WIC to coordinate care and avoid duplication of services. Please complete a PRF and have your patient take it to their WIC Center.
  - For **infants 6 months and older, and children** who get a therapeutic formula from any source: document **food restrictions** on the WIC Pediatric Referral Form (PRF).
  - WIC will ask for a completed and signed **Pediatric Referral Form** (PRF) every 3 months, even when your patient is getting the formula from a pharmacy or other provider.

### **Questions?**

***Providers can speak to a member of the PHFE WIC Therapeutic Formula support team by calling: (626) 856-6618 x455.***