

# **GUIDELINES FOR PRESCRIBING A THERAPEUTIC FORMULA**

**WIC is the payer of last resort for therapeutic formulas. If a participant receives Medi-Cal, WIC may be able to provide the therapeutic formula while the participant is waiting to receive it from a Medi-Cal pharmacy.**

In order to issue a therapeutic formula to a participant, WIC must have a prescription/referral from a health care provider. An MD, NP, or PA must sign the [prescription/referral](#).

Please FAX all prescriptions to WIC at 209-383-0366. At the same time, if the patient has Medi-Cal, please FAX a therapeutic formula request to a Medi-Cal pharmacy. DIAL Healthcare provides home delivery of therapeutic formula for Medi-Cal patients in our area. To access the Dial Healthcare Request for Nutritional Products for Infants form, [click here](#)

In most cases, WIC will honor a referral for therapeutic formula for a maximum of six months. At age six months, a new referral is required that notes if there are (or are not) food restrictions.

Infants over six months can be prescribed increased formula in place of baby food with a qualifying diagnosis.

Children over one year of age can continue on infant formula and infant foods with a qualifying medical diagnosis.

(Continues on next page)

**All referrals for therapeutic formulas and WIC-eligible  
nutritionals must include:**

- **Participant's name**
- **Specific formula/medical food**
- **Medical diagnosis\***
- **Amount needed per day**
- **Duration of prescription (months)**
- **WIC food restrictions beginning at age 6 months**
- **Health professional's signature (MD, NP, or PA only)**
- **Today's date**
- **Medical office/clinic name & location or office stamp**

**If any information is missing from the referral form, it may be  
returned for corrections.**

\*Qualifying medical conditions are conditions that impair ingestion, digestion, absorption or utilization of nutrients that could adversely affect the participant's nutrition status, such as prematurity, low birth weight, failure to thrive, gastrointestinal disorders, malabsorption syndromes, immune system disorders, inborn errors of metabolism, severe food allergies that require an elemental formula, etc.

**Diagnoses of "formula intolerance," "colic," and "picky eater"  
are NOT accepted.**