SUBJECT: IMPORTANT UPDATES TO ABBOTT RECALL OF SIMILAC POWDERED FORMULA PRODUCTS

Dear Vendor,

First, and foremost, thank you for your continued support of our WIC families over the past few days as we work to address the voluntary recall announced by Abbott Laboratories.

During this time, it is important for Vendors to remember that **you do not need to determine whether a product was purchased with WIC benefits or at your store as a part of the return process**. Also, it is important that we treat all customers the same with regard to the recall return/exchange process and possible substitutes.

The Michigan WIC Program applied for, and received USDA approval, on our *WIC Vendor Exchange Recall Waiver*, to allow us better flexibility as it relates to returns/exchanges as well as the redemption by WIC families of other formula brand substitutes. We are also communicating with WIC clinics and customers to assist them in understanding how to navigate this process as well.

We are asking our authorized Vendors to address the needs of our WIC participants as follows:

For future WIC redemptions

Your point-of-sale system (POS) will now accept substitutes and/or competitor manufactured formulas. The additional UPCs have been added to the approved product list (APL) file. You will need to download the updated APL file to ensure successful WIC transactions. If you have an integrated system, this may be done manually by your point-of-sale (POS) provider. If you have a stand-beside POS device, you may do a manual update by following these <u>instructions</u>

For returns of recalled formula

When a WIC participant returns a recalled Similac product, we ask that you apply your normal return process, which may include, but not limited to, the same product, a substitute product, store credit, or a cash refund.

For reimbursements through Abbott

Reimbursements for returned product should be worked out with Abbott directly; and you may wish to check if your wholesaler is offering to assist retailers with this process.

Abbott Customer Service: 1-800-551-5838 Mon through Fri 8:30 – 5:00 p.m. EST

Below is a comparison chart, with UPCs, to guide our Vendors in securing and purchasing the additional formula products for your store shelves. We kindly ask that each Vendor post this chart near the formula shelving in your store to assist WIC families in meeting their formula needs. This comparison chart may also be used to assist customers in locating formula suitable to exchange for any of the recalled formula returned to the store. Please keep in mind that this is a temporary benefit change.

(Note: Similac Soy Isomil powder and all liquid concentrate and ready-to-feed formulas are NOT included in the recall. Only some Similac Advance and Sensitive powder formulas are included in the recall).



As always, your continued support has not gone unnoticed.

Thank you!