

**CIRCULAR**

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**Alternate Program(s):**

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**To:** Community Social Service Supervisors/Program Managers

**Subject:** Infant Formula Program for HIV Mothers and Infants

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**Type:**  Policy  
 Procedure  
 Rate  
 Information Only

**Replaces:**

**Effective Date:** Immediately

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This circular provides information regarding the Infant Formula Program available to individuals who are living with HIV in Manitoba. The intent of the Program is to assist in the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission by supporting families impacted by HIV with their formula needs for the first year of an infant's life. Nine Circles Community Health Centre is administering this benefit on behalf of the Manitoba HIV Program and Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

To access the program, any Manitoban, including an EIA participant, who is pregnant and living with HIV or an individual living with HIV whose child is less than one year old can be referred by a Service Provider. EIA staff can make the referral if it has not been completed by another agency. Referrals should be made through the Manitoba HIV Program Referral line at 204-945-2437 or Toll Free 1-800-782-2437.

The Infant Formula Program will provide formula coverage for a 1 year term. Four cases of Enfamil A+ with ARA and DHA liquid concentrate will be provided each month, unless otherwise medically indicated. Any changes to the formula type or volume will need to be reviewed and adjusted by the Dietician at Nine Circles Community Health Centre.

Once a client is approved for the Infant Formula Program, they are responsible to contact their pharmacy of choice to arrange for the pickup of the chosen formula each month. Walmart Canada Inc. is the primary vendor partner with the Infant Formula Program; however any pharmacy in Manitoba can participate. The pharmacy will provide the formula and bill directly to Nine Circles on a monthly basis. The client is not required to pay for the formula and is not involved in the billing process.

Employment and Income Assistance program does not provide separate funds for infant formula to participants, as basic assistance benefits are intended to cover the cost of formula, should a mother choose not to breastfeed. The only exception is for infants who require a soy based formula.

If a participant is experiencing challenges with breastfeeding, staff can encourage them to access information and resources provided by Manitoba Health and Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. Use the following links for information about these resources that include breastfeeding clinics and the 24 hour breastfeeding hotline.

<http://www.manitobaparentzone.ca/baby/health-and-well-being/nutrition.html>

<http://www.wrha.mb.ca/healthinfo/news/files/BreastfeedingDropIn.pdf>