



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

Department of Health

NHS
MEL(1997)29 *file*

NHS Management Executive
St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
13th June 1997
Telephone 0131-244
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Dear Colleague

WELFARE FOOD SCHEME

Summary

1. This letter advises of a price increase from 1 June 1997 for Milupa Aptamil infant milk powder. This increase has not been agreed by NHS Supplies or the GB Health Departments. Health Boards and Trusts may still choose to purchase supplies of Aptamil for distribution under the Welfare Food Scheme, but they will have to meet the additional cost above the negotiated NHS contract price. Background information is at Annex A.

Action

2. Please draw this letter urgently to the attention of those involved in planning and managing welfare food distribution, staff in maternity and child health clinics and other welfare food distribution centres, and all purchasing and supplies staff.

Yours sincerely

DAVID R STEEL
Head of Health Gain

**FOR
REFERENCE ONLY**



Addressees

For action:
General Managers, Health Boards

Chief Executives, NHS Trusts

For information:
General Manager, Common Services Agency

General Manager, State Hospitals Board for Scotland

Chief Executive, Health Education Board for Scotland

Executive Director, SCPMDE

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Background

1. Milupa have recently informed the Department of Health of a proposed price increase of 25% for Milupa Aptamil, to take place from 1 June. This increase has **not** been agreed by NHS Supplies or the Department. This letter is to advise you that the Department will continue to reimburse Health Boards and NHS Trusts solely on the basis of the negotiated NHS contract price and not at any higher level.
2. Milupa Aptamil will continue to be available from Trust supplies departments at the current contract price while stocks last. After that, Aptamil will still be available but only at the higher price. Trusts requiring supplies of Aptamil at the higher price may ask Trust supplies departments to arrange delivery.
3. Independent advice continues to be that all brands of infant formula available under the Welfare Food Scheme are satisfactory in terms of nutrition and health. There is no confirmed clinical benefit in using one infant formula over another. If Health Boards and Trusts choose not to stock Milupa Aptamil, there should be no clinical detriment to babies because a wide range of other products are as satisfactory.
4. Milupa Milumil will continue to be available through Trust supplies departments at the current contract price.