

Dear Colleague

**WELFARE FOOD SCHEME**

Summary

1. This letter sets out the arrangements for packets of Milupa Milumil infant milk powder, which were removed from distribution, to be collected and returned to the manufacturer. It also notifies the new price to be paid under the Welfare Food Scheme by Family Credit recipients for infant formula from 7 April 1997. Background information is at Annex A.

Action

2. This letter should be brought to the attention of staff on maternity and child health clinics and other welfare food distribution centres. It should also be brought to the attention of all purchasing and supplies staff and all other staff involved in the Welfare Food Scheme.

Yours sincerely

**DAVID R STEEL**  
Director of Health Gain

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**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

Milupa Milumil

1. The Public Health Link message sent by the Chief Medical Officer on 24 January 1997 advised that all stocks of Milupa Milumil infant milk powder held by NHS Trusts in maternity and child health clinics and welfare food distribution centres should be removed from sale or distribution and held until further notice. Welfare food beneficiaries were advised to return any packets of Milumil which they had, whether full or part-used, to the clinic where they obtained them. Clinics were asked to exchange packets for an alternative brand of infant milk powder. If their local clinic was closed, beneficiaries were advised to go to any retailer and buy an alternative infant milk powder and keep the receipt. Beneficiaries were advised to give the clinic the receipt together with the full or part-used packet of Milumil when their clinic re-opened. Clinics were asked to refund beneficiaries the price paid for the alternative milk powder and claim back this amount from the Department of Health.

2. All stocks of Milupa should now be returned to the manufacturer. Trust Supplies Departments are requested to co-ordinate the collection of stocks returned from clinics via their normal distribution system and thereafter have the product uplifted by Milupa.

3. In order that Trusts may be reimbursed for these stocks, and for any refunds made to beneficiaries, it is important that Trusts make a full inventory on the form attached at Annex B of this letter and **not** on the quarterly reimbursement form (form WF6).

4. Trust Supplies Departments should collect all full packets via the normal distribution points. The contents of open packets should, where possible, be disposed of as waste by clinics and the empty packets returned to the Supplies Department as proof of purchase.

5. The numbers of all full and opened packets should be recorded on the attached form. If you have made any refunds to Welfare Food beneficiaries please also record these on the form and send in any supporting documentation, such as receipts, with the form. Forms should be returned to the Public Health Policy Unit at the address shown on the form. Please do not record these packets or any refunds on Form WF6. However, Form WF6 should be used in the usual way to include all infant formula distributed to Welfare Food beneficiaries, including packets of Milupa Milumil which were issued before the product was withdrawn.

Increased Price of Infant Formula

6. From 7 April 1997 the price to be paid by Family Credit recipients for 900 grammes of infant formula will increase from £3.65 to £3.75.