

Flow chart for managing PRE-TERM INFANTS

Breastmilk is the preferred milk for these babies but if needed, infants will have pre-term formula commenced in hospital before discharge
These formulae should not be used in primary care to promote weight gain in babies other than those born prematurely

Babies born <34 weeks gestation, weighing <2kg at birth may be initiated on:

Nutriprem 2[®] powder
 OR
SMA Pro Gold Prem 2[®] powder

Secondary care initiation only
 Prescribing to be continued by GP in primary care until infant reaches 6 months corrected age*

NOTE:
Prescribe POWDER formula
 Nutriprem 2[®] liquid or SMA Pro Gold Prem 2[®] liquid **should NOT BE prescribed** except in rare instances where there is a clinical need in e.g. immunocompromised infant

Rationale and duration should be clearly indicated by secondary care and communicated to the GP

Growth (weight, length & head circumference) should be monitored by the Health Visitor on a monthly basis using UK WHO growth charts

Is there a concern with growth?
 (See faltering growth flowchart)

*** 6 months corrected age = Expected Date of Delivery + 26 weeks**

NO

Use up to 6 months corrected age
 Then change to a standard OTC formula thereafter

YES

Refer to/Alert the paediatric team
 They may recommend the use of the pre-term formula until sufficient catch up growth is achieved

Pre-term additional notes

- Pre-term formulae are usually started for babies born before 34 weeks gestation, weighing less than 2kg at birth, and IUGR (intra uterine growth retardation).
- These infants should already be under regular review by the Paediatricians. Check correspondence for more details.
- Pre-term and low birthweight infants are particularly vulnerable to over and underfeeding. Therefore, the Health Visitor should monitor growth monthly while the baby is on these formulae:
 - Weight and centile
 - Length and centile
 - Head circumference and centile
- Not all babies need these formulae for the full 26 weeks from expected date of delivery (EDD).
- These products should be discontinued by 6 months **corrected** age (unless advised by the paediatric team).

6 months corrected age = Expected Date of Delivery + 26 weeks

- If there is excessive weight gain (e.g. weight centile over 2 centiles above length centile) at any stage up to 6 months corrected age, **stop** the formula and change to standard OTC formula. Also notify the Paediatric Dietitian/Paediatrician if still under their care.
- The introduction of solids should start no later than 6 months actual age (rather than corrected age) as the gut matures from birth.

Formulae

Formula	Presentation	Cost*	£/Kcal	Notes
Nutriprem 2 Powder® (Cow&Gate)	800g tin	£10.37	£0.26	Birth up to a maximum of 6 months corrected age
SMA Pro Gold Prem 2® (SMA)	400g tin	£4.92	£0.24	
Nutriprem 2 liquid® (Cow&Gate)	200mls	£1.74	£1.16	Should not be routinely prescribed unless there is a clinical need e.g. immunocompromised infant
SMA Pro Gold Prem 2 liquid® (SMA)	200mls	£1.64	£1.12	

*MIMS July 2018

Useful resources for parents and health professionals

- Bliss website and helpline number: www.bliss.org.uk/ helpline: 0808 8010322
- Tommys website, free App “my premature baby” www.tommys.org/page.aspx?pid=962
- Unicef baby friendly resources: www.unicef.org.uk/BabyFriendly/Parents/
- Royal college of Paediatric and Child health website for WHO growth charts and tutorials: <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/uk-world-health-organisation-growth-charts-guidance-health-professionals>