

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*

### Secondary/Tertiary Care initiation only

Babies born <34 weeks gestation, weighing <2kg at birth may be initiated on specialist formula in hospital and discharged with:

**SMA Gold Prem 2<sup>®</sup> powder**

OR

**Nutriprem 2<sup>®</sup> powder**

Prescribing to be continued by GP under expert recommendations until infant reaches 6 months corrected age\*

### Prescribe POWDER formula

**SMA Gold Prem 2<sup>®</sup> liquid**

**Nutriprem 2<sup>®</sup> liquid**

should **NOT BE prescribed** except in rare instances where there is a clinical need 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

[www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/growth-charts](http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/growth-charts)

**Is there a concern with growth?**

*(See Faltering Growth Pathway)*

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

**YES**

**Refer to/alert the paediatric team.**

They may recommend the use of the pre-term formula until sufficient catchup growth is achieved

**NO**

**Use pre-term formula up to 6 months corrected age\***

then change to a standard OTC formula

**STOP** pre-term formula if child is weaned or has excessive weight gain determined by growth charts. Notify paediatric dietitian/paediatrician if still under their care.

*Start solids no later than 6 months actual age (rather than corrected age) as the gut matures from birth*

- 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 birth weight infants are particularly vulnerable to over and under feeding. 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 formulae for the full 26 weeks from expected 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	Notes	Presentation
Nutriprem 2 Powder® (Cow & Gate)	Birth up to a maximum of 6 months corrected age	800g tin
SMA Gold Prem 2® (SMA)		400g tin
Nutriprem 2 liquid® (Cow & Gate)	Should not be routinely prescribed unless there is clinical need e.g. immunocompromised infant	200ml bottle
SMA Gold Prem 2 liquid® (SMA)		200ml bottle

### Useful Resources:

- **Bliss** (for babies born premature or sick) [www.bliss.org.uk](http://www.bliss.org.uk) or 020 7378 1122
- **Tommy's 'My Prem Baby'** - a free app to support parents of premature babies [www.tommys.org/pregnancy-information/premature-birth/my-prem-baby-app](http://www.tommys.org/pregnancy-information/premature-birth/my-prem-baby-app)
- Royal college of Paediatric and Child health website for WHO growth charts and tutorials: [www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/growth-charts](http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/growth-charts)