# Pre-term Infant Feeding Pathway





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 <u>not</u> 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<sup>®</sup> powder

SMA Pro Gold Prem 2<sup>®</sup> 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

YES

Use <u>up to</u> 6 months corrected age Then change to a standard OTC formula thereafter 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 Feeding - 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
SMA Pro Gold Prem 2 <sup>®</sup> (SMA)	400g tin	£4.92	£0.24	months corrected age
Nutriprem 2 liquid® (Cow&Gate)	200mls	£1.74	£1.16	Should not be routinely
SMA Pro Gold Prem 2 liquid <sup>®</sup>				prescribed unless there is a
(SMA)	200mls	£1.64	£1.12	clinical need e.g.
				immunocompromised infant

\*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