

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[®] powder

OR

Nutriprem 2[®] powder

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

Prescribe POWDER formula

SMA Gold Prem 2[®] liquid

Nutriprem 2[®] 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

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 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
- Royal college of Paediatric and Child health website for WHO growth charts and tutorials: www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/growth-charts