

Medicines Optimisation intervention brief

Medicines Optimisation Incentive Scheme 2018/19 Cost Saving Intervention

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| TITLE? |
| CS2.2.2 Infant formula –pre-term feeds including ready-made formulations |
| WHAT? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discontinue pre-term infant formula and transfer to standard OTC formula if : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The infant is at or beyond 6 months corrected age (= expected date of delivery + 26 weeks) (unless advised by the paediatric team) Where there is excessive weight gain (e.g. weight centile over 2 centiles above length centile) at any stage up to 6 months corrected age. Ensure all pre-term formula is prescribed as the powder for reconstitution and not as the considerably more expensive ready-made preparations, unless there is a valid clinical reason in the patient’s health record. |
| WHY? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-term formulae are expensive and not needed for all babies. They 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. 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) Pre-term formula as powder for reconstitution is the best value preparation rather than ready-made liquid formula. |
| WHO? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All patients receiving prescriptions for pre-term infant formulae |
| TIPS? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to guidelines - See Formulary for Infant Formulae on WHCCG website (LINK). |
| HOW? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up a search on the GP clinical system to find patients receiving prescriptions for pre-term infant formulae Initially review patients who are at or beyond their 6 months corrected age Refer to the most recent correspondence from the paediatric dietitian/ health visitor Exclude any patients currently under supervision of a paediatric dietician/ health visitor and |



where supply is documented as still required.

- Discuss and agree with GP/ paediatric dietician/ health visitor to discontinue the supply of pre-term infant formula for the above patients and switch to an alternative OTC formula.
- Agree method of contacting patient's parent/ carer.

For all other pre-term infants

- Check to see 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.
- Refer to the most recent correspondence from the paediatric dietitian/ health visitor.
- Exclude any patients currently under supervision of a paediatric dietician/health visitor and where supply is documented as still required.
- Discuss and agree with GP/ paediatric dietician/ health visitor to discontinue the supply of pre-term infant formula for the above patients and switch to an alternative OTC formula.
- Agree method of contacting patient's parent/ carer.
- For all pre-term infants
- Check if they are prescribed a ready-made liquid formulation (the hospitals use this but should discharge home on powder to be reconstituted)
- Exclude any clinical need identified in the health record for ready-made formulations
- Discuss and agree with GP/ paediatric dietician/ health visitor change to milk powder and ensure advice on reconstitution is provided.
- Agree method of contacting patient's parent/ carer.

SO WHAT?

- Appropriate prescribing of pre-term infant formulae.
- A reduction in items of pre-term infant formulae prescribed of the total of all pre-term infant formulae products prescribed after the intervention.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Formulary for Infant Formulae on WHCCG website ([LINK](#)).
- GPs quick prescribing reference guide ([LINK](#))
- Royal college of Paediatric and Child health website for WHO growth charts and tutorial: ([LINK](#))

