

PROVISION OF INFANT FORMULA

Guidance for food & baby banks

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR INFANT FORMULA?



Babies up to one year of age

Babies who receive all or part of their nutrition from infant formula must have that need met up until the age of 1, when they can transition to full fat cows milk.

WHAT FORMULA TYPE CAN WE ACCEPT?



First infant milk is suitable for babies up to one year

First infant milk, or stage 1 infant formula, usually has a large number 1 on the box or tin. It is suitable for babies up to one year of age.

WHAT INFANT FORMULA BRAND IS BEST?



All brands meet the same nutritional standards

All infant formula is subject to strict legal guidelines regarding the composition and manufacture. Therefore, all brands must meet the same nutritional guidelines.

CAN BABIES SWITCH TO A DIFFERENT FORMULA?



Switching to a different formula brand is not harmful

While some babies may show a preference for a specific brand of first infant formula, switching to a different brand is not harmful as all first infant milks have very similar composition. If a parent or carer has concerns they can speak to their health care provider.

WHAT IF A BABY NEEDS A SPECIAL FORMULA?



Refer the family to their healthcare provider

Some specialist formula are available on prescription while others can be purchased over the counter. If a family feels their baby needs such formula they should speak with their Midwife, Health Visitor or GP.

HOW DO YOU PREPARE INFANT FORMULA?



By following best practice guidelines from the NHS

The NHS Start4Life Guide to Bottle Feeding contains information on how to prepare and store infant formula, as well as handy tips on feeding. Keep these leaflets to hand to give to parents and carers of formula fed babies.

CAN FOOD AND BABY BANKS PROVIDE INFANT FORMULA?

Yes, food and baby banks can accept and provide formula to families in need

The national and international laws governing infant feeding recognise, and include allowances for, the acceptance and provision of infant formula to formula fed babies.

HOW CAN WE FURTHER SUPPORT FAMILIES IN NEED?

Signpost them to additional support services

Tell families about the Best Start Foods or Healthy Start schemes as they may be eligible for further financial support to help with the families food costs. You can also signpost families to their local infant feeding team for further support.

HOW CAN WE SUPPORT FAMILIES LIVING WITH HIV?

Contact your local HIV support service

It is recommended that parents living with HIV exclusively formula feed their infant, but some can struggle to afford infant formula. Contact your local HIV support service to see if they would be interested in receiving donations of first infant formula to distribute to their clients.

HOW CAN WE SUPPORT BREASTFEEDING?

By supporting the breastfeeding Mum

Breastfeeding families can be referred to their healthcare provider for feeding support. Additional foodstuffs can also be provided to meet the additional calorie requirements of optimal milk production.

FURTHER INFORMATION

These guidelines were written by Feed in accordance with the laws governing infant formula, the frameworks described by the Royal College of Midwives and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, British HIV Association and National Aids Trust recommendations, and as a response to the APPGIFI inquiry into infant formula costs which highlighted the issues facing formula feeding families living in the UK.

These guidelines are endorsed by the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, the National Aids Trust, Aber Necessities, Glasgow North Baby Foodbank and Moray Baby Bank.

