

Recommendations for Prescribing following the recall of Similac Alimentum® and Elecare®

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) have issued an alert (available [here](#)) due to potential contamination of Elecare® and Similac Alimentum® with Salmonella. This alert has been shared by the Medicines Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) as these feeds are prescribed and used in healthcare settings. We have been informed that all batches of these products supplied to the UK have been affected. Healthcare professionals prescribing and supplying these products will therefore need to consider alternative products until the situation is resolved.

For action by and attention of

- General Practitioners
- Pharmacists (hospital, community and medicines optimisation specialists)
- Dietitians
- Hospitals

Products:

- Similac Alimentum® (Abbott) – extensively hydrolysed formula (EHF)
- Elecare® (Abbott) – amino acid formula (AHF)

Note: other Abbott products including other Similac® products are unaffected.

Patient groups at risk:

- Infants and young children

Background

- The infant feeds are prescribed for Cow's Milk Allergy or feed intolerance, typically in tube fed infants.
- The London region prescribed 10,661 items of these products (December 2020 to November 2021, data accessed from <https://openprescribing.net/>).
- They are provided as part of Abbott Nutrition contracts in a number of London hospitals.
- Symptoms of salmonella include fever, diarrhoea and abdominal cramps (FSA).

Actions to take

1. GP practices and Medicines Optimisation teams should identify infants and children prescribed these products.
2. Hospital pharmacies and wards should check stock/remove affected stock.
3. Alternative feeds should be sourced or prescribed, as per local formulary. The choice of 2nd line infant feeds varies between areas. Stock availability is likely to be variable, therefore some flexibility is recommended. Some potential alternatives are listed in the below table:

Type of specialist infant formula	Product recall	Potential alternatives (with further information)
Amino Acid Formula	Elecare®	Neocate LCP® (birth to 12 months) Nutramigen Puramino® (birth to 2 years, contains Medium Chain Triglycerides) SMA Alfamino® (birth to 3 years, contains MCT)
Extensively hydrolysed formula	Similac Alimentum®	Althera® (birth to 3 years, whey based, contains lactose) Aptamil Pepti 1® (birth to 6 months, whey based, contains lactose) Aptamil Pepti 2® (6 months to 2 years, whey based, contains lactose) Nutramigen 1 with LGG® (birth to 6 months, casein based, lactose free)* Nutramigen 2 with LGG® (6 months to 2 years, casein based, lactose free)*

*note different instructions for making up correctly that need to be explained to parents. Please refer to product literature for each individual product for more information before prescribing.

4. If mothers are mixed feeding (providing breastmilk and infant formula) then breastfeeding can and should be supported.
5. Parents and caregivers may be understandably concerned with both the product recall and infant acceptance of a new feed, especially if the infant is weaned onto solid foods or well established on the recalled feeds.
 - a) Introducing a new tasting feed may require perseverance.
 - b) Minor changes to gastrointestinal function are possible due to lactose and prebiotic content of alternative feeds. However, careful interpretation of symptoms is required.
 - c) Parents may ask about alternative milks such as soya based, goat's milk or other alternatives. *First Steps Nutrition* provide a simple guide to choosing milk for infants and toddlers without a diagnosed Cow's Milk Allergy or feed intolerance, and can be consulted to check overall suitability for any infant ([here](#)).

This alert was produced by the NHS LPP Medicine Optimisation & Pharmacy Procurement team, NHS London Procurement Partnership
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