

Infant formula

NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney CCG has carried out a local clinical review into the prescribing of infant formula and decided that the prescribing of certain infant formula will no longer be supported. The reason for this is that certain infant formula (as listed below) are available to purchase from supermarkets and pharmacies at similar cost to standard infant formula which is not prescribed.

Infant formula which is not currently supported include;

- Infant formula for gastro reflux i.e. Aptamil Anti Reflux, Cow and Gate Anti Reflux, Enfamil AR, SMA Stay Down.
- Infant formula for secondary lactose intolerance i.e SMA LF, Enfamil Lacto Free, Aptamil Lactose Free
- Any infant formula being used for pre term infants once they are over 6 months corrected age.
- Any soya milk based infant formula i.e SMA Wysoy,

People who still wish to use this infant formula should purchase it from a supermarket or pharmacy.

Is there any financial support available to purchase infant formula?

Healthy Start is a UK-wide government scheme to improve the health of low-income pregnant women and families on benefits and tax credits.

Healthy Start Vouchers can be used for infant formula, milk, plain fresh or frozen fruit and vegetables (fruit and vegetables with nothing added) in a wide variety of local shops and supermarkets and with milkmen that have registered to take part in the scheme.

Who qualifies for Healthy Start Vouchers?

Women who are at least 10 weeks pregnant and families with children under four years old qualify for Healthy Start if the family is getting:

- Income Support, or
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, or
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, or
- Child Tax Credit (but not Working Tax Credit unless the family is receiving Working Tax Credit run-on only*) **and** has an annual income of £16,190 or less (2014/15).

*Working Tax Credit run-on is the Working Tax Credit received in the four weeks immediately after a person has stopped working for 16 hours or more per week (single adults) or 24 hours a week (couples).

Women also qualify during the whole of their pregnancy if they are under 18 when they apply, even if they don't get any of the above benefits or tax credits. To continue getting support from the scheme for their babies, they must meet the same qualifying criteria as other Healthy Start families.

What do Healthy Start beneficiaries get?

- Pregnant women get one Healthy Start voucher a week worth £3.10

- Babies under the age of one get two vouchers a week worth a total of £6.20
- Children aged over one and under four get one voucher a week worth £3.10.

Vouchers are posted out every four weeks.

Are there restrictions on which type of infant formula the vouchers can be used for?

This must be infant formula milk that is based on cow's milk and says on the packaging that it can be used from birth.

Vouchers cannot be spent on infant formulas that are not based on cow's milk – such as soya formulas and goat's milk formulas – or on any follow-on formulas that say on the packaging that they are for babies aged six months or older.

How can I get further information?

You can visit the website below to find out more or you can call the Healthy Start Team on **0345 607 6823**

<https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/healthy-start-vouchers/>