Formula feed: Approximate fluid requirements for a formula fed low birth weight, preterm and small for gestational age neonate

This document should be read in conjunction with this Disclaimer

Please note: these volumes are a guide only; some babies will not be able to tolerate the upper volumes and this is acceptable, provided they do not develop hypoglycaemia. Refer to the Neonatal post-natal ward Hypoglycaemia guideline for more information.

- **Days 1 and 2**: 60-80mL per kilogram (birth weight) per day
- **Days 3-7**: 80-120mL per kilogram (birth weight) per day
- **Thereafter**: 120-150mL per kilogram (birth weight) per day

**Small infants:**
Calculation of fluid to be offered in 24 hours

\[
\text{Baby's Weight } \times \text{ Amount per kg per day} \times \frac{1000}{1}
\]

E.g. 1st day 60mL per kg of body weight per day.

Baby weighs 2000g

\[
\frac{2000 \times 60}{1000} = 15 \text{mL every 3 hours}
\]

or

\[
\frac{2000}{1000} = 20 \text{mL every 4 hours}
\]

In the case of infants requiring fortified calorie feeding, a paediatrician must be consulted.
Formula: Fluid requirements for a formula fed LBW, preterm and SGA neonate

Related WNHS policies, procedures and guidelines

Neonatology guidelines on newborn feeding and formula preparation
Neonatal Postnatal Ward Guideline: Hypoglycaemia
Obstetrics & Gynaecology: Formula: Fluid Requirements for the Formula Fed Neonate (Term); Formula Technique; Formula Preparation; Breastfeeding: Medical Indication for Formula

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NSQHS Standards (v2) applicable: 1 Governance, 2 Partnering Consumers

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