



CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE

# 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

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

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

Baby weighs 2000g



$$\frac{2000}{1000} \times \frac{60}{8} = 15\text{mL every 3 hours}$$

or 20mL every 4 hours

In the case of infants requiring fortified calorie feeding, a paediatrician must be consulted.

**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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