

Abbott Infant Formula Contamination

9 March 2022

The Food Standards Agency issued a Product Recall Information Notice ([PRIN](#)) and published [advice to parents](#), after Abbott took the precautionary step of recalling various batches of two foods for special medical purpose products (Elecare Similac and Alimentum Similac). This was as a result of concerns regarding possible contamination of these products with *Salmonella* Newport and *Cronobacter sakazakii*. These products are powder formulas for use in babies from birth with cow's milk protein allergy. Although they are not medicines, they are usually provided on prescription as they should be used under medical supervision. They cannot be purchased in UK supermarkets, although they are available from some online retailers.

The MHRA has [shared information](#) for clinicians urging healthcare professionals to contact all patients who have been dispensed the impacted batches immediately. There are alternative products available. These are listed in [UK Health Security Agency's National Patient Safety Alert](#). It is expected that there are existing local guidelines/formularies in place; these often cite a number of options agreed at local level for extensively hydrolysed formulas (EHF) and amino acid formulas (AAF) for suitable age ranges. Please refer to the BNF for children when prescribing these products.

Below we have included the **key actions** to be completed by **11 March 2022**.

1. Acute and community NHS Trusts and private providers/ independent treatment centres to ensure their pharmacies have adhered to the instructions regarding the recall of the relevant batches of these two products.
2. Pharmacists (Acute and community NHS Trusts, private providers/ independent treatment centres and community pharmacy) and General Practitioners to ensure patients who have been dispensed/prescribed relevant products are contacted and instructed not to use and to return or dispose of them.
3. Community pharmacies to display notices containing information on the recall at the point of sale/dispensing.
4. Ensure information disseminated to relevant clinicians/practitioners (primary and secondary care) for awareness and with the following guidance:
 - a. Clinicians/practitioners should have a low threshold for further monitoring and/or investigation as appropriate when encountering unwell children who have consumed these products.

- b. Clinicians/practitioners should notify their relevant UKHSA Health Protection Team of confirmed cases of *Salmonella* spp. or *Cronobacter* spp. among infants and children who are known to have consumed these products.