

Recall of Rickett Benckiser Nutramigen LGG1 and Nutramigen LGG2 extensively hydrolysed commercial milk formula

January 2024

Recall of Nutramigen LGG 1 and Nutramigen LGG2

The British-Dutch consumer goods company Rickett Benckiser (owner of the Mead Johnson brand) has taken the precautionary step of recalling specific batches of the commercial milk formula powders Nutramigen LGG1 and Nutramigen LGG2 due to the possible presence of the bacteria *Cronobacter sakazakii*. Both products are foods for special medical purposes used for the dietary management of infants with diagnosed cows' milk allergy who do not receive breastmilk or who are fed breastmilk and formula milk.

In response to the recall, the UK Food Standards Agency (FSA) issued a <u>food alert</u> on 3rd January detailing the batches affected.

The FSA state that: "Symptoms caused by Cronobacter sakazakii usually include fever and diarrhoea, and in severe cases may lead to sepsis or meningitis which include symptoms in infants including poor feeding, irritability, temperature changes, jaundice (yellow skin and whites of the eyes) and abnormal breaths and movements."

Younger infants and those with weakened immune systems are at greatest risk.

What should parents who use these formula milks do?

In the first instance, parents should seek medical advice if they have any concerns about their baby's health.

Parents should not feed the affected batches to their infants and if they have bought any of the affected batches, they should be returned to the place of purchase.

Seek the help of their GP, midwife, or heath visitor to identify a suitable alternative extensively hydrolysed infant milk. The BDA Paediatrics Group have published a list of those available.

Do not feed your baby a standard cows' or goats' milk infant formula if they have been diagnosed with cows' milk allergy.

Parents who are mixed feeding should continue to breastfeed until a suitable alternative formula milk is available. Parents who wish to increase breastfeeding in the interim can find support to do so, if required, from their local midwives or health visitors. There are also national helplines and organisations that offer individual support around breastfeeding:

National Breastfeeding Helpline

0300 100 0212 or see http://www.nationalbreastfeedinghelpline.org.uk/get-in-touch/

La Leche League GB

0345 120 2918 or see: https://www.laleche.org.uk/get-support/

NCT Support line

0300 330 0700

Nutramigen LGG1 and Nutramigen LGG2 contain probiotic bacteria which are marketed as having health benefits for infants (although evidence is lacking) (First Steps Nutrition Trust, 2021). This means that reconstituting them at the recommended temperature of at least 70°C, necessary to kill harmful bacteria, would also kill any probiotic bacteria present. As they are also marketed as Foods

for Special Medical Purposes (FSMP) they are not subject to the recommended reconstitution temperature of at least 70°C and instructions may be given that they may be made up with cooler water. This is because this milk should be used under medical supervision, which allows for an individual risk assessment to be made by the prescribing clinician.

This recall is a good reminder of why it is important to ensure parents/carers know and understand NHS advice on safer preparation of powdered infant formulas and that they and the healthcare professionals who prescribe these products are aware of the potential risks when recommending that they are reconstituted at lower temperatures.

NHS advice for safe reconstitution of infant formula milks is available here and First Steps Nutrition Trust information here.