

PHARMAC guidelines have changed

PAEDIATRICIANS* are now the ONLY clinicians able to apply for an amino acid formula from 1 year of age and it is important a NEW application is completed

When would I prescribe Neocate Junior?

The indications for Neocate Junior include severe cows' milk allergy (CMPA), anaphylaxis or eosinophilic oesophagitis.

Children who are allergic to cows' milk at 1 year of age have an increased risk of nutritional deficiencies due to faltering growth, feeding difficulties, multiple food allergies, restrictive eating or elimination diets for example. Neocate Junior provides a nutritional solution for these children. ⁽³⁻⁶⁾

Do I need to do a new Pharmac application for Neocate Junior?

Yes, if a child needs to continue to receive an amino acid-based formula then at 12 months of age you will need to apply for a new Pharmac application. This can be done via a dietitian but must have Paediatrician approval.

GPs are unable to apply for the Pharmac number but can write a script for these children. A new Pharmac number is required every 6 months.

Can a GP prescribe Neocate Junior?

Yes, a GP can prescribe Neocate Junior Unflavoured or Neocate Junior Vanilla with Prebiotics with a current Pharmac number.

Do children at 1 year of age still require an amino acid-based formula as a substitute for cows' milk?

90% of infants with CMPA still have symptoms beyond 1 year of age.⁷ Children with food allergies are often fussy eaters, on restrictive diets or have additional nutritional requirements due to active atopic dermatitis. Because of this these children are at additional risk of nutritional deficiencies, malnutrition and growth problems. ⁽³⁻⁶⁾

I prefer to recommend Rice, Oat or nut-based drinks for children over 1 year of age, why is Neocate Junior preferable in this age group?

ASCIA dietary avoidance of cow's milk guidelines state:² Rice, Oat or nut-based drinks are NOT suitable for children under two years of age due to inadequate amounts of fat, calcium and protein.^{***} Neocate Junior provides 50% RDI for fat, protein and calcium important for growth and development.¹

There are two Neocate Junior formulas available for children over 1 year of age. What is the difference between these?

Neocate Junior Vanilla with Prebiotics is an amino acid-based formula containing Nutricia's unique prebiotics (scFOS/lcFOS).^{**} It is vanilla flavoured and is suitable for when food allergies persist after 1 year of age, especially when nutrition is at risk. It is the only amino acid-based formula containing added prebiotic fibre for digestion benefit.

Neocate Junior Unflavoured is an amino acid-based formula suitable for when food allergies persist after 1 year of age, especially when nutrition is at risk.

*Applications for children 12 months of age and over will need to be made by a paediatrician or dietitian on the recommendation of a paediatrician. Paediatricians include paediatric gastroenterologists and paediatric immunologists.

** short chain fructo-oligosaccharides and long chain fructo-oligosaccharides

*** unless after consultation with a clinical immunology/allergy specialist and dietitian with experience in Paediatric Food Allergy.