

From: Sexton Sharon (Bristol CCG)
To: SACN
Subject: Draft Vitamin D and Health report - feedback on consultation

Please find comments below, the italics are you recommendation followed by our comments:

'805. Data are insufficient to set RNIs for infants and children aged 0-3 years. As a precaution, a 'Safe Intake' of vitamin D is therefore proposed for these ages: in the range 8.5-10 µg/d for ages 0 to < 1 year (including exclusively breast fed infants); and 10 µg/d for ages 1 to < 4 years. '

Our interpretation of this is that SACN are proposing a safe intake for 'exclusively breast fed infants'. How will this work in practice? Does this therefore mean that there is a recommendation that exclusively breast fed babies receive a Vitamin D supplement? If so, will there be recommendations for administering this and which supplements are suitable (for example liquid preparation/dose)? Will relevant health care professionals be supported in the advice/message?

The same questions apply for children aged 1 to <4years.

806. Since it is difficult to achieve the RNI/Safe Intake from natural food sources alone, it is recommended that consideration is given to strategies for the UK population to achieve the RNI of 10 µg/d for those aged 4 years and older and for younger children to achieve a Safe Intake in the range 8.5-10 µg/d at ages 0 to < 1 year and 10 µg/d at ages 1 to < 4 years.

Who will need to consider such strategies? Will this be followed up by further national guidance about the practical delivery of this recommendation at local level? Or will local CCGs and public health teams be left to interpret and implement this? Ultimately such strategies will involve supplementation and if there is an expectation that this is prescribed rather than over the counter products this will have a huge impact on the prescribing costs across the NHS. More advice would be appreciated on how to deliver this recommendation at a local level.

Best Wishes
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