

NEC CRITERIA

To meet the NEC criteria, all of the following conditions must be fulfilled, along with valid supporting documentation:

Required Documentation

- Documentation verifying the child's birth weight is necessary, such as a birth certificate or equivalent record.
- Proof of birth weight must be provided.

Eligible Diagnosis

- The child must have been diagnosed with **Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC)**.
- NEC diagnosis must occur after the child was fed the specified formula or milk fortifier, and prior to reaching 37 weeks gestational age.

Qualifying Injuries

The premature infant must have sustained at least one of the following injuries related to NEC:

1. Death
2. Persistent gastrointestinal or bowel complications
3. Intestinal perforation (a tear or hole in the intestines)
4. Scarring or narrowing (strictures) in the intestines
5. Sepsis (a widespread infection throughout the body)
6. Cerebral palsy
7. Neurological impairment
8. Other significant or lasting injuries

Nutrition History

The child must have received one of the following products before developing NEC? (If none of these, DQ):

1. **Enfamil Formula**
2. **Enfamil Milk Fortifier**

3. **Similac Formula**
4. **Similac Milk Fortifier**

Disqualification Criteria

The case will be disqualified if:

1. There is no NEC diagnosis.
2. The child was born **before 2006**.
3. The child was born at **37 weeks gestational age or later**.
4. Birth weight was **above 5.5 pounds**.
5. NEC diagnosis was made at **37 weeks or later**.