Iodine in Pregnancy

See the Health Worker, Midwife or Dietitian at your clinic for more information.

Tips for getting enough iodine from food:

Eat foods that are rich in iodine including:

Fish eg fresh fish or tinned eg salmon and shell fish eg oysters, and sushi (using seaweed).

Breads.

Dairy foods eg cheddar cheese, Yoghurt, ice cream and milk.

Some salt has iodine added as “iodised salt”. Using too much salt is not recommended.

Ask your Doctor for more information about Listeria.
**What is iodine?**

Iodine is a **mineral or trace element** found in different foods that helps your thyroid hormones to work.

**How much iodine do you need?**

- **In pregnancy:** 220μg per day.
- **Breastfeeding mothers:** 270μg per day.
- **Normally women need:** 150μg per day.

Every day try to have **breads, dairy foods, eggs or fish.**

It’s a good idea to ask your doctor if you will need iodine supplements **before, during pregnancy and when breastfeeding.**

**Excellent food sources of iodine:**

- Oysters
- Sushi (with seaweed)
- Tinned salmon
- Bread
- Fresh Snapper

**Good food sources of iodine:**

- Cheddar Cheese
- Eggs
- Ice Cream
- Chocolate Milk
- Yoghurt
- Milk
- Tinned Tuna

**Why do you need iodine?**

Iodine is needed for normal growth and development. Lack of iodine can cause mental retardation known as Goiter or Cretinism.

Goiter symptoms include dry skin, fatigue and hair loss.

**When you are pregnant**, you need enough iodine to help your baby’s brain to grow. Lack of iodine can cause mental deficiency and stop normal growth.