

Emergency Triage Assessment and Treatment (ETAT)

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Manual for participants

WHO

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World Health
Organization

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ISBN 92 4 154687 5



9 789241 546874

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Acknowledgements

The WHO Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development wishes to acknowledge the help and support of Professor Elizabeth Molyneux, who developed the training course for the Emergency Triage Assessment and Treatment on which these course materials are based. We would like to extend our thanks to Patricia Whitesell, ACT, USA, who wrote a first draft of the materials, and to Dr. Jan Eshuis, Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, who developed the training materials further. In addition, we are grateful to the participants and facilitators of several field tests of these materials for their comments. We wish to thank Dr Carolyn Maclennan, Melbourne, Australia, Dr. Diana Silimperi and Lauri Winter, Quality Assurance Project, Bethesda, USA for providing substantial comments and revisions during these field tests, and the WHO Regional Offices for Africa, Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific for their support.

WHO Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Emergency triage assessment and treatment (ETAT).

Contents: Manual for participants — Facilitator guide.

1. Triage. 2. Emergency treatment. 3. Child health services. 4. Teaching materials. I. World Health Organization.

ISBN 92 4 154687 5 (participants)

(NLM classification: WS 205)

ISBN 92 4 154688 3 (facilitator)

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Introduction

A nine-month old baby boy is carried into the children's section of the outpatient department in his mother's arms. He appears to be asleep. At the triage desk he is seen by a nurse and found to have lips and tongue that are grey/blue in colour, and he is taken straight into the resuscitation room as an emergency.

In the resuscitation room he is given oxygen from an oxygen concentrator. He is noted to be grunting and breathing very fast. His hands are cold to touch and the capillary refill time is prolonged to four seconds. An intravenous cannula is placed. A blood sample is taken at the same time for blood glucose, haematocrit and other investigations. An intravenous infusion of normal saline is commenced at 20ml/kg to run as fast as it can go.

Other treatments are given, depending on the result of the investigations and the response to the treatment he receives. It is now 18 minutes since the baby came through the outpatient department's door, and his situation is stable. It is now time to take a full history and carry out a full examination to make a definitive diagnosis. He is diagnosed as having very severe pneumonia, and receives specific treatment for this. However, before coming to this diagnosis, no time was wasted, his status was stabilized, based on a few leading signs and symptoms, even when the medical staff did not know exactly what was wrong with him.

This was good triage and emergency management. Would it have happened like this in your hospital? In this training course, you are going to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills for the triage and emergency management of sick children, and you will consider what is needed to introduce this to your hospital.

Deaths in hospital often occur within 24 hours of admission. Many of these deaths could be prevented if very sick children are identified soon after their arrival in the health facility, and treatment is started immediately. Therefore, a process of rapid triage for all children presenting to hospital needs to be put in place, to determine whether any emergency or priority signs are present. Triage may be done in 15-20 seconds by medical staff or by non-medical staff (after appropriate training) as soon as the child arrives, and no special equipment is needed for this. Once emergency signs are identified, prompt emergency treatment needs to be given to stabilize the condition of the child.

WHO has developed Emergency Triage Assessment and Treatment (ETAT) guidelines. These are adapted from the Advanced Paediatric Life Support guidelines used in western countries, and they identify children with immediately life-threatening conditions which are most frequently seen in developing countries, such as obstruction of the airway and other breathing problems caused by infections, shock, severely altered central nervous system function (coma or convulsions), and severe dehydration.

These guidelines were developed in Malawi, and were field-tested in several other countries including Angola, Brazil, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kenya and Niger.

The guidelines are contained in the manual “Management of the child with a serious infection or severe malnutrition” and in the “Pocketbook of hospital care for children”, on which this training course is based. This course manual is primarily meant for the participants of a 3 1/2 days training course in Emergency Triage, Assessment and Treatment. It provides participants with the reading materials to prepare themselves for the modules taught in the course. Some of the reading might be done during the course. In addition, it gives questions for self-assessment which participants can respond to after having gone through the training. Apart from use in a full-time training course, the reading will be useful for trainers and participants who take part in training as a series of seminars. Guidance on how to conduct such training is contained in a parallel facilitator’s guide.

This training course does not stand on its own. It can be included in a quality improvement process which targets the whole hospital or it can start such a process. At the end of the course, participants plan for introducing an ETAT process at their institution, by comparing the existing situation with international standards, and suggesting actions to solve identified problems and to document and evaluate such a process. Lessons learned in this process can be applied to other areas of child health in hospital and to care of other patient groups. Emergency management is by team, rather than by individual players, so team work is emphasized and practised throughout the course.

Learning objectives for the training course

At the end of the course you will be able to:

- Triage all sick children when they arrive at a health facility, into the following categories:
 - those with emergency signs
 - those with priority signs
 - those who are non-urgent cases.
- Assess a child’s airway and breathing and give emergency treatments.
- Assess the child’s status of circulation and level of consciousness.
- Manage shock, coma, and convulsions in a child.
- Assess and manage severe dehydration in a child with diarrhoea.
- Plan and implement ETAT in your own working area in your hospital.

Triage and the "ABCD" concept

Many deaths in hospital occur within 24 hours of admission. Some of these deaths can be prevented if very sick children are quickly identified on their arrival and treatment is started without delay. In many hospitals around the world, children are not checked before a senior health worker examines them; as a result, some seriously ill patients have to wait a very long time before they are seen and treated. Children are known to have died of a treatable condition when waiting in the queue for their turn. The idea of triage is to prevent this from happening. The word "triage" means sorting. The use of triage to prioritize the critically ill dates back to the early 19th century, when this was developed by military surgeons in the Napoleonic war between France and Russia.

Triage is the process of rapidly examining all sick children when they first arrive in hospital in order to place them in one of the following categories:

- Those with **EMERGENCY SIGNS** who require immediate emergency treatment.
If you find any emergency signs, do the following **immediately**:
 - Start to give appropriate emergency treatment.
 - Call a senior health worker and other health workers to help.
 - Carry out emergency laboratory investigations.
- Those with **PRIORITY SIGNS**, indicating that they should be given priority in the queue, so that they can **rapidly** be assessed and treated without delay.
- Those who have no emergency or priority signs and therefore are **NON-URGENT** cases. These children can wait their turn in the queue for assessment and treatment.¹ The majority of sick children will be non-urgent and will not require emergency treatment.

After these steps are completed, proceed with general assessment and further treatment according to the child's priority.

In an ideal situation, all children should be checked on their arrival in hospital by a person who is trained to assess how ill they are. This person decides whether the patient will be seen immediately and will receive life-saving treatment, or will be seen soon, or can safely wait his/her turn to be examined.

TRIAGE

is the sorting of patients into priority groups according to their need and the resources available

E Emergency
P Priority
Q Queue (non-urgent)

¹ Sometimes it is discovered that a child in the queue is waiting for immunization. These children do not need assessment and can be referred to the right department without delay.

Categories after triage	Action required
EMERGENCY CASES	Need immediate emergency treatment
PRIORITY CASES	Need assessment and rapid attention
NON-URGENT CASES	Can wait their turn in the queue

A	Airway
B	Breathing
C	Circulation
	Coma
	Convulsion
D	Dehydration (severe)

The ABCD concept

Triage of patients involves looking for signs of serious illness or injury. These emergency signs relate to the Airway-Breathing-Circulation/Consciousness-Dehydration and are easily remembered as “**ABCD**”.

Each letter refers to an emergency sign which, when positive, should alert you to a patient who is seriously ill and needs immediate assessment and treatment.

Priority signs

Besides the group of emergency signs described above, there are priority signs, which should alert you to a child who needs prompt, but not emergency assessment. These signs can be remembered with the symbols **3 TPR - MOB**:

- Tiny baby: any sick child aged under two months
- Temperature: child is very hot
- Trauma or other urgent surgical condition
- Pallor (severe)
- Poisoning
- Pain (severe)
- Respiratory distress
- Restless, continuously irritable, or lethargic
- Referral (urgent)
- Malnutrition: Visible severe wasting
- Oedema of both feet
- Burns

The frequency with which children showing some of these priority signs appear in the outpatient department depends on the local epidemiology. The signs might need to be adapted accordingly, for example by including signs for common severe conditions which cannot wait in your setting.

The triaging process

Triaging should not take much time. For a child who does not have emergency signs, it takes on average 20 seconds. The health worker should learn to assess several signs at the same time. A child who is smiling or crying does not have severe respiratory distress, shock or coma. The health worker looks at the child, observes the chest for breathing and priority signs such as severe malnutrition and listens to abnormal sounds such as stridor or grunting.

Several methods are available to facilitate the triaging process. One example is a stamp being used in Malawi consisting of the “ABCD” signs in which the health worker circles the correct step and initiates **emergency** treatment “E” or puts them in **priority** groups “P” or “Q” for children who can wait in the **queue**.

Colours can also be used for differentiating the three groups, giving a red sticker to emergency cases, a yellow for priority and green for the queue.

A	Airway
B	Breathing
C	Circulation
Cm	Coma
Cn	Convulsion
D	Dehydration (severe)
<hr/>	
E	Emergency
P	Priority
Q	Queue

WHEN AND WHERE SHOULD TRIAGING TAKE PLACE?

Triage should be carried out as soon as a sick child arrives in the hospital, well before any administrative procedure such as registration. This may require reorganizing the flow of patients in some locations.

Triage can be carried out in different locations – e.g. in the outpatient queue, in the emergency room, or in a ward if the child has been brought directly to the ward at night. In some settings, triage is done in all these places. Emergency treatment can be given wherever there is room for a bed or trolley for the sick child and enough space for the staff to work on the patient, and where appropriate drugs and supplies are easily accessible. If a child with emergency signs is identified in the outpatient queue, he/she must quickly be taken to a place where treatment can be provided immediately, e.g. the emergency room or ward.

WHO SHOULD TRIAGE?

All clinical staff involved in the care of sick children should be prepared to carry out rapid assessment in order to identify the few who are severely ill and require emergency treatment. If possible, all such staff should be able to give initial emergency treatment, as described in the flowchart and treatment charts. In addition, people such as gatemen, record clerks, cleaners, janitors who have early patient contact should be trained in triage for emergency signs and should know where to send people for immediate management.

HOW TO TRIAGE?

Keep in mind the ABCD steps: Airway, Breathing, Circulation, Coma, Convulsion, and Dehydration.

To assess if the child has airway or breathing problems you need to know:

- Is the child breathing?
- Is the airway obstructed?
- Is the child blue (centrally cyanosed)?

Look, listen and feel for air movement. Obstructed breathing can be due to blockage by the tongue, a foreign body, a swelling around the upper airway (retropharyngeal abscess) or severe croup which may present with abnormal sounds such as stridor.

- Does the child have severe respiratory distress?

Is the child having trouble getting breath so that it is difficult to talk, eat or breastfeed? Is he breathing very fast and getting tired, does he have severe chest indrawing or is he using auxiliary respiratory muscles?

To assess if the child has circulation problems you need to know:

- Does the child have warm hands?
- If not, is the capillary refill time longer than 3 seconds?
- And is the pulse weak and fast?

In the older child the radial pulse may be used; however, in the infant, the brachial or femoral pulses may need to be felt.

To assess for coma you need to know:

A rapid assessment of conscious level can be made by assigning the patient to one of the AVPU categories:

A	A lert
V	responds to V oice
P	responds to P ain
U	U nresponsive

A child who is not alert but responds to voice is lethargic. If the assessment shows that the child does not respond to voice and only responds to pain (with targeted or untargeted movements), or does not respond at all, the level is at "P" or "U". We then refer to that child as having coma and the child needs to be treated accordingly.

To assess for dehydration you need to know:

- If the child is lethargic or unconscious
- If the child has sunken eyes
- If the skin pinch goes back very slowly

When ABCD has been completed and there are no emergency signs, continue to assess the priority signs.

If the child has **any sign** of the ABCD, it means the child has an emergency "**E**" sign and **emergency treatment** should start **immediately**

Assessing priority signs

If the child does not have any of the E signs, the health worker proceeds to assess the child on the priority signs. This should not take more than few seconds. Some of these signs will have been noticed during the ABCD triage discussed so far, and others need to be rechecked. Follow the 3 TPR-MOB to quickly complete this section.

Tiny infant (less than two months of age)

If the child appears very young, ask the mother his age. If the child is obviously not a young infant, you do not need to ask this question.

Small infants are more difficult to assess properly, more prone to getting infections (from other patients), and more likely to deteriorate quickly if unwell. All tiny babies of under two months should therefore be seen as a priority.

Temperature: Hot (fever - high Temperature)

A child that feels very hot may have high fever. Children with high fever on touch need prompt treatment. Take the waiting child to the front of the queue and take locally adopted action, like having the temperature checked by thermometer, giving an antipyretic, or doing investigations like a blood film for malaria.

Severe Trauma (or other urgent surgical condition)

Usually this is an obvious case, but one needs to think of acute abdomen, fractures and head injuries in this category.

Severe Pallor

Pallor is unusual paleness of the skin, and severe pallor is a sign of severe anaemia which might need urgent transfusion. It can be detected by comparing the child's palms with your own. If the palms are very pale (almost paper-white), the child is severely anaemic.

Poisoning

A child with a history of swallowing drugs or other dangerous substances needs to be assessed immediately, as he can deteriorate rapidly and might need specific treatments depending on the substance taken. The mother will tell you if she has brought the child because of possible intoxication.

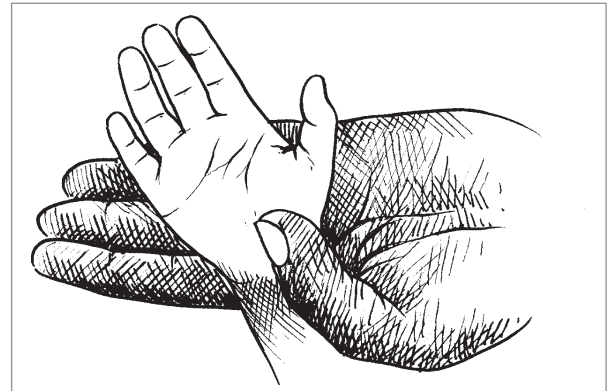


Figure 1
Severe pallor

Severe Pain

If a child has severe pain and is in agony, she/he should be prioritized to receive early full assessment and pain relief. Severe pain may be due to severe conditions such as acute abdomen, meningitis, etc.

Lethargy or Irritable and Restless

Recall from your assessment of coma with the AVPU scale whether the child was lethargic. A lethargic child responds to voice but is drowsy and uninterested (V in the AVPU scale).

The continuously irritable or restless child is conscious but cries constantly and will not settle.

Respiratory distress

When you assessed the airway and breathing, did you observe any respiratory distress? If the child has severe respiratory distress, it is an emergency. There may be signs present that you do not think are severe, e.g. lower chest wall indrawing (not severe), or difficulty in breathing. In this case, the child does not require emergency treatment but will need urgent assessment. Decisions on the severity of respiratory distress come with practice. If you have any doubts, have the child seen and treated immediately.

Urgent Referral

The child may have been sent from another clinic. Ask the mother if she was referred from another facility and for any note that may have been given to her. Read the note carefully and determine if the child has an urgent problem.

Severe wasting (Severe Malnutrition)

A child with visible severe wasting has a form of malnutrition called marasmus. To assess for this sign, look rapidly at the arms and legs as well as the child's chest. A detailed description is given in the section on dehydration (see pages 28/29).

Oedema of both feet

Oedema of both feet is an important diagnostic feature of kwashiorkor, another form of severe malnutrition. Other signs are changes in the skin and hair.

Major Burn

Burns are extremely painful and children who seem quite well can deteriorate rapidly. If the burn occurred recently, it is still worthwhile to cool the burnt area with water, for example, by sitting the child in a bathtub with cool water. Any child with a major burn, trauma or other surgical condition needs to be seen quickly. Get surgical help or follow surgical guidelines.

Triage all sick children. When a child with emergency signs is identified, take to the emergency room or treatment area and start the appropriate emergency treatments immediately. Do not proceed to the next step before treatment is begun for a positive sign.

Treatment begins when any emergency sign is identified

Triage Steps	Treat when any sign is positive
Assess A	If positive, treat. If negative, proceed to B
Assess B	If positive, treat. If negative, proceed to C
Assess C	If positive, treat. If negative, proceed to D
Assess D	If positive, treat. If negative, proceed to priority signs

If the child has no emergency signs, check for priority signs. After the examination for priority signs has been completed, the child will be assigned to one of:

- Priority (P):** the child should be put at the front of the queue
- Queue (Q):** if the child has no emergency or priority signs

Once appropriate emergency treatments have been initiated:

- call for a senior health worker;
- draw blood for emergency laboratory investigations such as blood glucose, haemoglobin and malaria smear;
- ask about head or neck trauma before providing treatment;
- take careful note if the child is severely malnourished, because this will affect the treatment of shock and dehydration caused by diarrhoea.

More than one treatment may have to be administered as quickly as possible, and several people may have to work together as a team

It is essential to act as quickly as possible and to start the emergency treatments. The team needs to stay calm and work together efficiently. The person in charge of the emergency management of the child assigns tasks so that the assessment can continue and treatments can be initiated as quickly as possible. Other health workers help to give the treatment needed, especially since a very sick child may need several treatments at once. The senior health worker will direct the treatment and immediately continue with a core assessment and follow-up of the child, identifying all the child's problems and developing the treatment plan.

GENERAL TREATMENT FOR PRIORITY SIGNS

Priority signs lead to quicker assessment of the child by moving the child to the front of the queue. While waiting, some supportive treatments may already be given. For example, a child found to have a hot body may receive an antipyretic

such as paracetamol. Similarly, a child with a burn may have severe pain and the pain could be controlled while waiting for definitive treatment.

If a child has no emergency signs or priority signs, she/he may return to the queue.

THE NEED FOR FREQUENT REASSESSMENT

During and following emergency treatment, the child should be re-assessed using the complete ABCD process. The disease course is dynamic and there could be new developments within a short time. Reassessment should begin with assessment of the airway and through the ABCD.

Triage is the sorting of patients into priority groups according to their need.

All children should undergo triage. The main steps in triage are:

- Look for emergency signs.
- Treat any emergency signs you find.
- Call a senior health worker to see any emergency.
- Look for any priority signs.
- Place priority patients at the front of the queue.
- Move on to the next patient.

Triage should be carried out quickly. You will soon learn to observe several things at once. For example, when assessing the airway and breathing you may note that the baby is very small or is restless. With practice, a complete triage (if no emergency treatment is needed) takes less than a minute.

SUMMARY

Assessment questions: Triage

Answer all the questions on this page, writing in the given spaces. If you have a problem, ask for help from one of the facilitators.

1. Define "triage".

2. When and where should triage take place?

3. Who should do triaging?

4. What do the letters A, B, C and D in "ABCD" stand for?

5. List the priority signs:

6. Put the actions in the right chronological order: what will you do first, what next, what after that, and so on, and what last?

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| <input type="text"/> | Ask about head or neck trauma |
| <input type="text"/> | Call a senior health worker to see any emergency |
| <input type="text"/> | Have blood specimens taken for laboratory analysis |
| <input type="text"/> | Look for any priority signs |
| <input type="text"/> | Look for emergency signs |
| <input type="text"/> | Move on to the next patient |
| <input type="text"/> | Place priority patients at the front of the queue |
| <input type="text"/> | Start treatment of any emergency signs you find |

7. A three-year old girl is carried in her mother's arms wrapped in a blanket, in the queue. Her airway and breathing are OK. She has cold hands. Her capillary refill is 1.5 seconds. She is alert. Asked if the child has had diarrhoea, the mother answered "YES. Four loose stools per day". The skin pinch takes 3 seconds. How do you triage this child?

8. A four-year old male child was rushed in. He convulsed one hour ago. He is breathing fast but there is no cyanosis and no respiratory distress. He feels very hot, but responds quickly to questions. He has no diarrhoea or vomiting. How do you triage this child?

9. A one-year old had a seizure at home; then again outside the clinic. He became unconscious. His breathing sounds very wet and noisy and there is drooling coming from his mouth. He is looking blue. How do you triage this child?

10. A two-year old male is rushed to your clinic acutely convulsing. How do you triage this child?

11. What signs of malnutrition do you check during triage?

12. Where do you look for signs of severe wasting?

13. Below what age is a child always a priority?

14. What should you do if the child has a priority sign?

Airway and breathing

The letters **A** and **B** in “ABCD” represent “**airway and breathing**”. It is evident that an open (patent) airway is needed for breathing. An airway or breathing problem is life-threatening and must receive your attention before you move on to other systems. It is therefore convenient that the first two letters of the alphabet represent the two most important areas to look for emergency or priority signs. If there is no problem with the airway or breathing, you should look for signs in the areas represented by **C**.

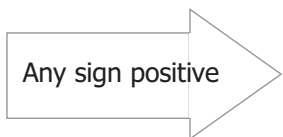
A	Airway
B	Breathing
C	Circulation Coma Convulsion
D	Dehydration (severe)

This section examines the assessment of the signs concerning the child’s airway and breathing that suggest a need for emergency treatments, and what treatments to give.

To assess if the child has an airway or breathing problem you need to know:

- Is the child breathing?
- Is the airway obstructed?
- Is the child blue (centrally cyanosed)?
- Does the child have severe respiratory distress?

If the child is not breathing or if the airway appears obstructed, you must first open the airway.

Table 1 Assessment and treatment of airway and breathing			
A B AIRWAY AND BREATHING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Not breathing ■ Central cyanosis, or ■ Severe respiratory distress If yes, is the breathing obstructed?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Manage airway ➤ Give oxygen ➤ Make sure the child is warm
Check for head/neck trauma before treating the child; do not move neck if cervical spine injury is possible.			

Assessment of the airway

IS THE CHILD BREATHING? IS THE AIRWAY OBSTRUCTED?

If the child is not breathing, or if the child has severe respiratory distress, is there an obstruction to the flow of air? Obstruction can occur at several levels.

The tongue can fall back and obstruct the pharynx, or a foreign body (such as a piece of fruit) can lodge in the upper airway. Croup can also cause upper airway obstruction. Coins and peanuts are notorious causes of aspiration and subsequent choking. Ask the child's caretaker explicitly for a history of choking. Techniques to remove foreign bodies are based on support of forced expiration rather than a blind finger sweep of the mouth or other mechanical. A blind finger sweep in infants and children should not be done, as it might cause serious bleeding. Attempts to force the foreign body out of the airway should be done immediately, because airflow may be halted completely and sudden death could be imminent.

Management of the airway

MANAGEMENT OF THE CHOKING CHILD

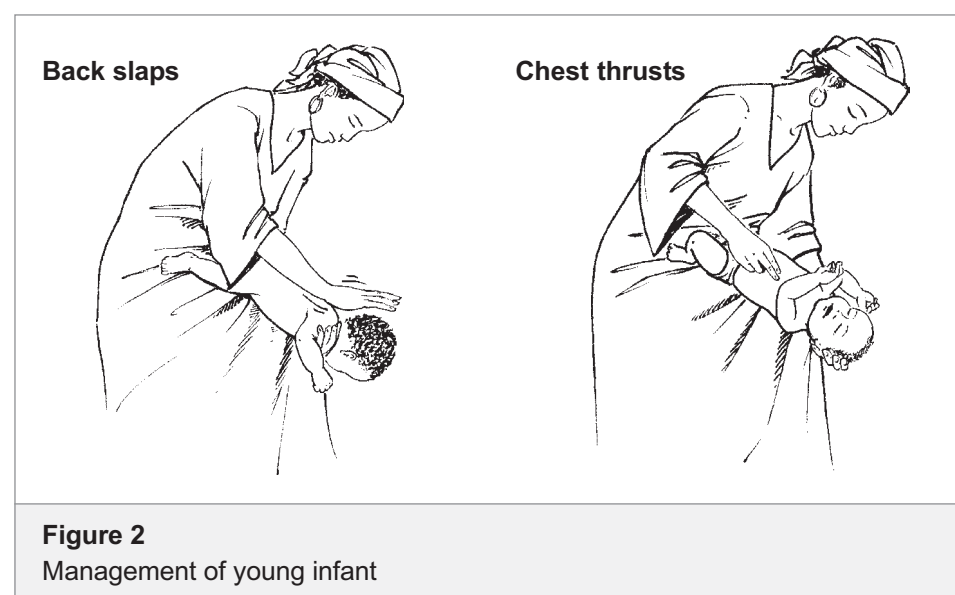
If the child is **choking**, do not hesitate, call for help and **immediately manage** the airway according to the instructions

A child with a history of aspiration of a foreign body who shows increasing respiratory distress is in immediate danger of choking. Attempts to remove the foreign body should be made instantly. Do not hesitate. Apply back slaps or **Heimlich manoeuvre**. The treatment differs depending on whether there is a foreign body causing respiratory obstruction or some other cause for the obstruction or respiratory distress.

If a foreign body is causing the obstruction, the treatment depends on the age of the child.

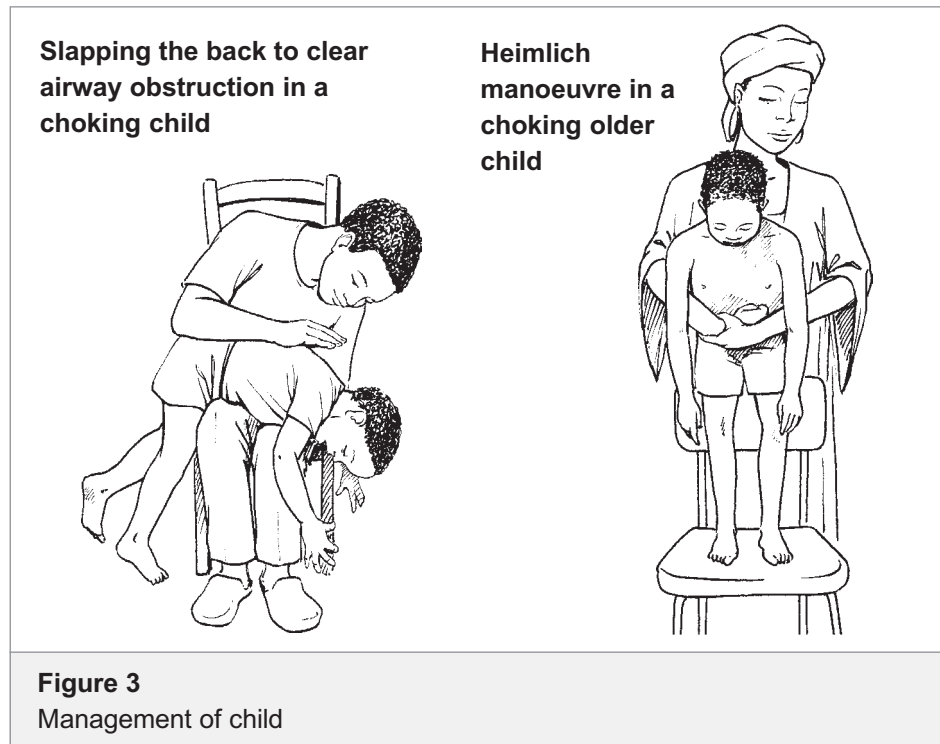
Management of young infant (see Figure 2)

- Lay the infant on your arm or thigh in a head down position
- Give 5 blows to the infant's back with heel of hand
- If obstruction persists, turn infant over and give 5 chest thrusts with 2 fingers, one finger breadth below nipple level in midline
- If obstruction persists, check infant's mouth for any obstruction which can be removed
- If necessary, repeat sequence with back slaps again



Management of child (see Figure 3)

- Give 5 blows to the child's back with heel of hand with child sitting, kneeling or lying
- If the obstruction persists, go behind the child and pass your arms around the child's body; form a fist with one hand immediately below the child's sternum; place the other hand over the fist and pull upwards into the abdomen; repeat this Heimlich manoeuvre 5 times
- If the obstruction persists, check the child's mouth for any obstruction which can be removed
- If necessary, repeat this sequence with back slaps again



After you have performed this procedure you should check inside the mouth for any foreign body. Obvious foreign bodies should be removed. Secretions should be cleared from the throat of all children. The breathing should be checked again.

POSITIONING TO IMPROVE THE AIRWAY

An airway or breathing problem is life-threatening. This child needs immediate treatment to improve or restore the breathing, even before you continue with the assessment of emergency signs. To treat an airway or breathing problem you should first open the airway and then begin giving the child oxygen. The drawings below show the chin lift. This is a way of opening the airway in children who have not been subjected to trauma. The drawings illustrate two different positions. Figure 4 shows the position for infants, the nose pointing upwards. Figure 5 shows the position for children, the chin pointing up. In both cases, place your hand on the child's forehead and apply a little pressure

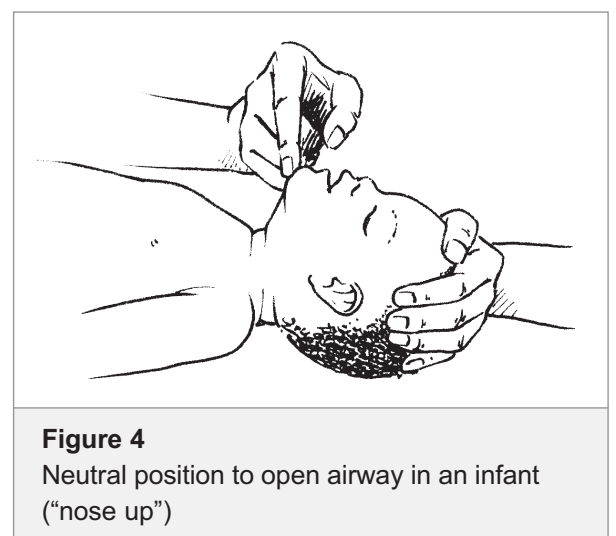




Figure 5
Sniffing position to open up airway in an older child ("chin up")

to achieve the tilt. The fingers of the other hand are used to gently lift the chin.

To do this safely you must know if the child has been subjected to any trauma. In such a case, it is important not to tilt the head or move the neck. It is also important to know the child's age because you will position an infant (under 12 months of age) differently from a child.

IS TRAUMA OF THE NECK A POSSIBILITY?

Any child with an emergency sign needs emergency treatment. However, always ask and check for head or neck trauma before treating, as this will determine how much a child can be moved. If a child has trauma you must avoid further injury during assessment or treatment. To check for head or neck trauma:

- Ask if the child has had trauma to the head or neck, or a fall which could have damaged the spine
- Look for bruises or other signs of head or neck trauma
- Stabilize the neck if trauma is suspected

If you suspect trauma which might have affected the neck or spine, do not move the head or neck as you treat the child and continue the assessment. This child may have a spinal injury, which could be made worse by moving him.

To open and manage the airway when trauma is suspected a **jaw thrust** is used, as is illustrated in Figure 6. This is a way of opening the airway without moving the head. It is safe to use in cases of trauma for children of all ages. The jaw thrust is achieved by placing two or three fingers under the angle of the jaw on both sides, and lifting the jaw upwards.

If neck trauma is suspected, **stabilize the neck** (Figure 7):

- Stabilize the child's neck and keep the child lying on the back
- Tape the child's forehead to the sides of a firm board to secure this position
- Prevent the neck from moving by supporting the child's head (e.g. using litre bags of IV fluid on each side)
- Place a strap over the chin

If vomiting, turn on the side, keeping the head in line with the body (see Figure 8 {log roll}). If the child is restless, ask an attendant to stabilize the neck without upsetting the child more.

Log roll

Move a patient with a suspected cervical spine injury carefully. Avoid rotation and extremes of flexion and extension. One person, usually the most senior

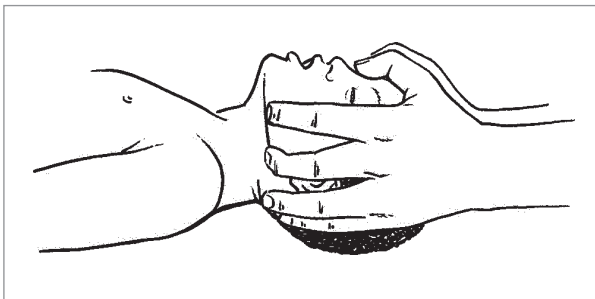


Figure 6
Jaw thrust without head tilt

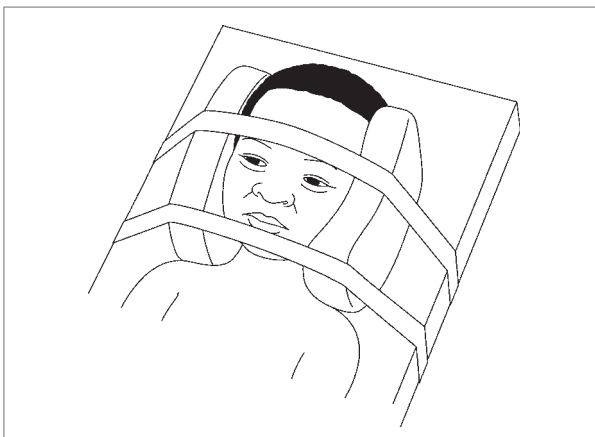


Figure 7
Stabilising the neck when trauma is suspected

attendant, should assume responsibility for the neck. He should stand at the top end of the patient, hold the patient's head, and place the fingers under the angle of the mandible with the palm over the ears and parietal region and maintain gentle traction to keep the neck straight and in line with the body. When the patient is not being moved, a sandbag¹ placed on each side or a cervical collar can splint the neck.

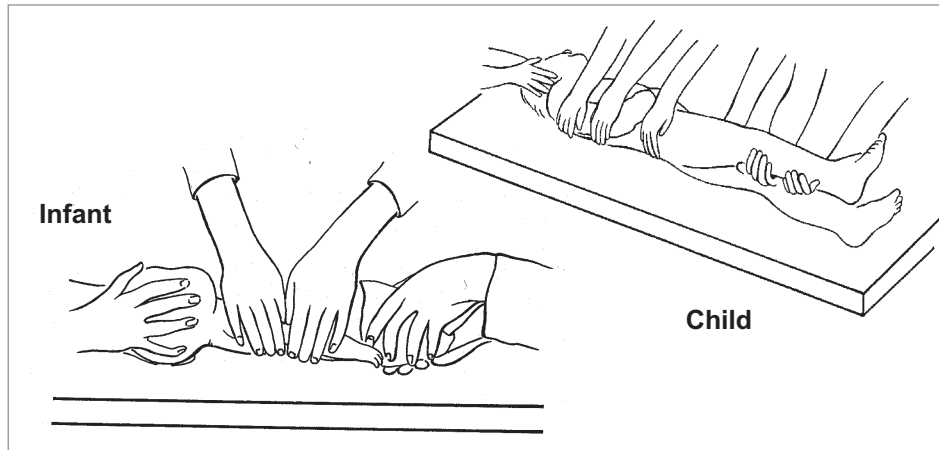


Figure 8

Log roll: stabilizing the neck of the patient while moving the body

Before moving to the next section you will be given the opportunity to practise the skills needed for moving a patient with an injury of the neck

Assessment of breathing

IS THE CHILD BREATHING?

To assess whether or not the child is breathing there are three things you must do (see Figure 9):

- **LOOK**
If active, talking, or crying, the child is obviously breathing. If none of these, look again to see whether the chest is moving.
- **LISTEN**
Listen for any breath sounds. Are they normal?
- **FEEL**
Can you feel the breath at the nose or mouth of the child?

If the child is not breathing, you need to support the breathing artificially by ventilating the child with a bag and mask.



Figure 9

Look, listen and feel for breathing

DOES THE CHILD SHOW CENTRAL CYANOSIS?

Cyanosis occurs when there is an abnormally low level of oxygen in the blood. This produces a bluish or purplish discoloration of the tongue, the inside of the mouth and the skin. This sign may be absent in a child who has severe anaemia.

To assess for central cyanosis, look at the mouth and tongue. A bluish or purplish discoloration of the tongue and the inside of the mouth indicates central cyanosis.

¹ Use bottles or rolled towels in case sandbags are not available.

DOES THE CHILD HAVE SEVERE RESPIRATORY DISTRESS?

If the child has severe respiratory distress there is increased work during breathing. The child may appear tired and distressed from the effort of trying to get enough oxygen into the lungs, and the breathing appears fast.

If the child is talking, drinking or feeding comfortably, or appears to be happy, there is no severe respiratory distress (or obstructed breathing).

Observe whether the child has significant discomfort from not getting enough air into the lungs. Is there difficulty in breathing while talking, eating or breastfeeding? Is the child breathing very fast, have severe lower chest wall indrawing, or using the auxiliary muscles for breathing which cause the head to nod or bob with every inspiration? The latter is particularly seen in young infants. If you see this, the child has severe respiratory distress.

Is the child's breathing very laboured – i.e. needing much more effort to breathe than normal? Is the child exhausted (tired)? Are any of the signs of severe respiratory distress present?

Abnormal respiratory noises

Are there any noises heard when breathing in? A harsh noise on breathing in is called **stridor**, a short noise when breathing out in young infants is called **grunting**. Both noises are signs of severe respiratory problems.

If the child is breathing adequately, go to the next section to quickly continue the assessment for emergency signs. If the child has an airway or breathing problem, you should initiate appropriate treatment and then quickly resume the assessment.

Management of breathing problems

VENTILATE WITH BAG AND MASK

If the child is not breathing after management of the airway, ventilate with a self-inflating bag and mask. Such a bag fills itself with room air when released, and when squeezed again, pushes air through an outlet, to which a mask is attached for inflating the lungs. The bag is used together with a facemask. It is important to use the right size of facemask to prevent leakage. Before use, check

the bag and valve by closing the patient's connection with your thumb and attempt to expel air from the bag. If the bag and valve are in order, this will not be possible until you release your thumb. If either the bag or valve is faulty, the bag will empty easily. If you have oxygen, this should be connected to the mask (see Figure 10).

It is important for the mask to be the correct size for the child and that it is placed correctly over the face. The correct size and position are shown in the illustration. There are several sizes of mask, and a selection of these should be available (see Figure 11).

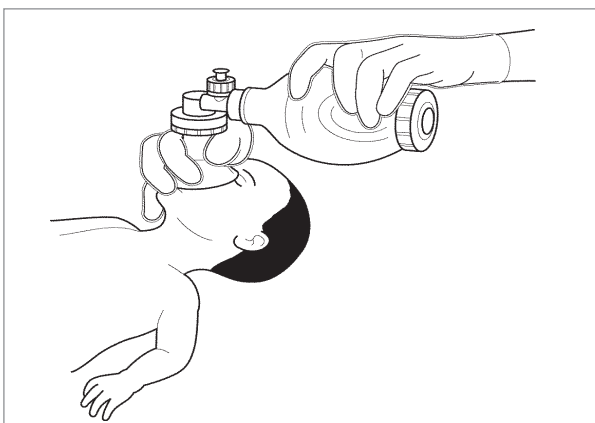
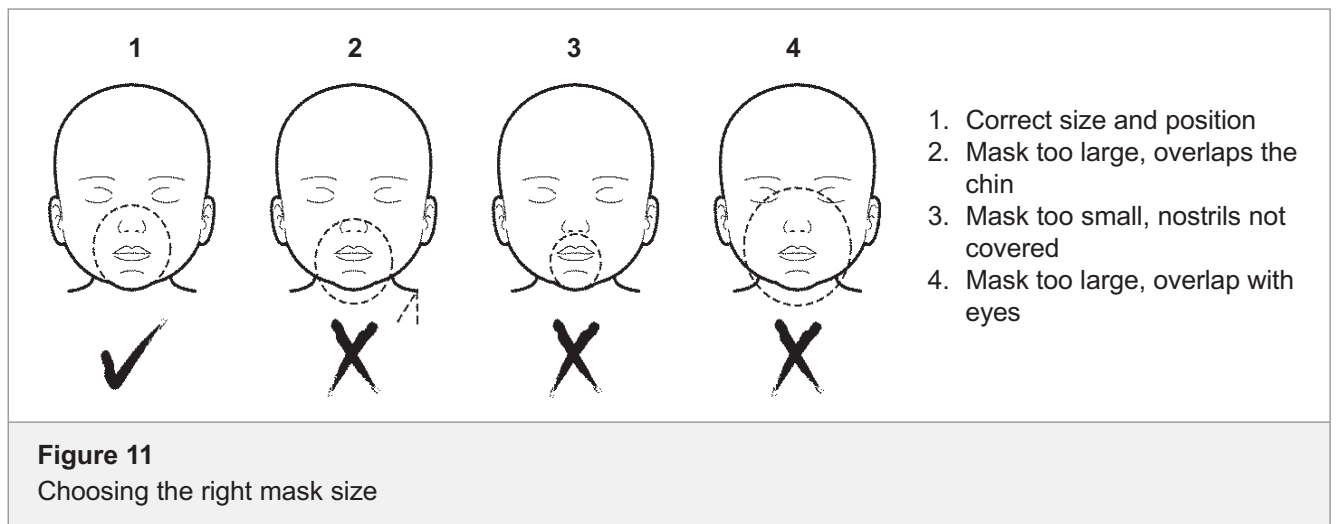


Figure 10
Ventilating a baby with a self-inflating mask

Signs of severe respiratory distress

- Very fast breathing
- Severe lower chest wall indrawing
- Use of auxiliary muscles
- Head nodding
- Inability to feed because of respiratory problems



INSERTION OF AN OROPHARYNGEAL (GUEDEL) AIRWAY

The oropharyngeal or Guedel airway can be used in an unconscious patient to improve airway opening. It may not be tolerated in a patient who is awake and may induce choking or vomiting. Guedel airways come in different sizes. An appropriate sized airway goes from the centre of the teeth (incisors) to the angle of the jaw when laid on the face with the raised curved side (concave) up (“the right side up”).

Infant

- Select an appropriate sized airway
- Position the child to open the airway (p.15), taking care not to move the neck if trauma suspected
- Using a tongue depressor, insert the oropharyngeal airway the convex side up
- Re-check airway opening
- Use a different sized airway or reposition if necessary
- Give oxygen

Child

- Select an appropriate sized oropharyngeal airway
- Open the child’s airway, taking care not to move the neck if trauma suspected
- Using a tongue depressor, insert the airway “upside down” (concave side up) until the tip reaches the soft palate
- Rotate through 180° and slide back over the tongue
- Re-check airway opening
- Use a different sized airway or reposition if necessary
- Give oxygen

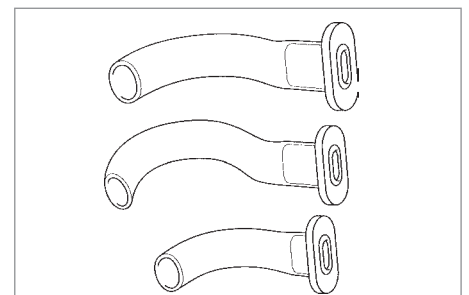


Figure 12
Guedel tubes of different sizes and types

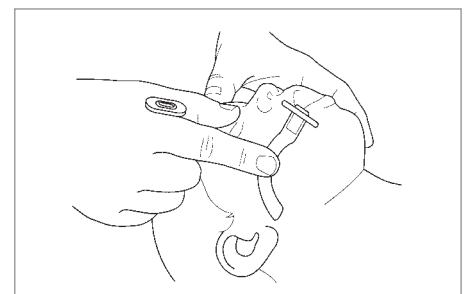


Figure 13
Selecting the right size of an oropharyngeal airway

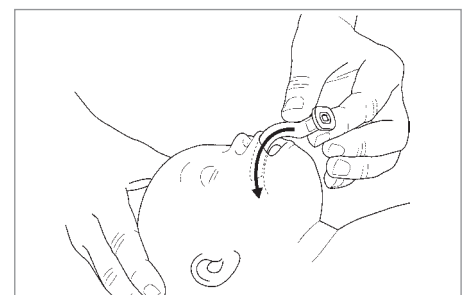


Figure 14
Inserting an oropharyngeal airway in an infant: convex side up

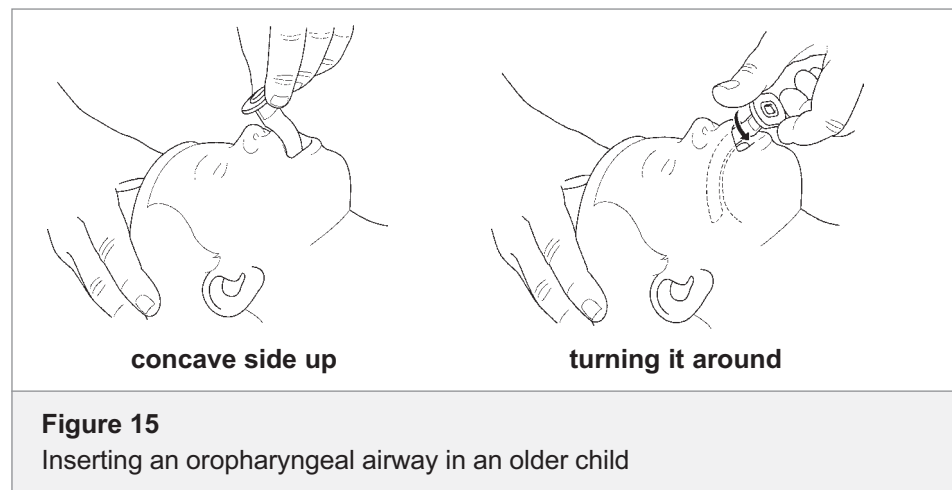


Figure 15
Inserting an oropharyngeal airway in an older child

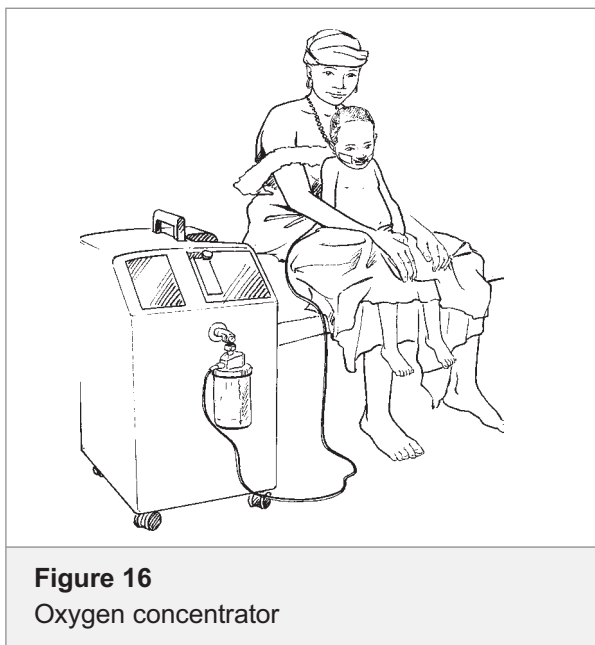


Figure 16
Oxygen concentrator

GIVE OXYGEN

For all children who have any problem with their airway or breathing, always give oxygen first, while you continue to assess for other problems. Central cyanosis is a sign of deficient oxygenation (desaturation) and these children need oxygen urgently; however, children who are anaemic and desaturated may not show cyanosis, but also need oxygen. Many children with severe respiratory distress and with shock are also desaturated or not delivering enough oxygen to the brain and other vital organs and will benefit from oxygen treatment.

Sources of oxygen to treat hypoxaemia

There are two possible sources of oxygen: oxygen concentrators (see Figure 16) and oxygen-filled cylinders (see Figure 17):

- **Oxygen concentrators** work by pumping room air through a zeolite canister to remove nitrogen, thus concentrating the oxygen. The device is of moderate cost, requires little maintenance, and, once purchased, produces oxygen continuously at low cost. A continuous electrical supply is required, however, to operate the pump.
- **Oxygen cylinders** are easy to use, requiring only a flow meter and appropriate tubing, and can operate even when there is no electrical supply. The oxygen in cylinders is, however, relatively expensive and maintaining a constant supply is often difficult, especially at peripheral hospitals and health centres.

Depending on the availability or possibility of introduction at your health facility, you will be demonstrated one or both during the course.

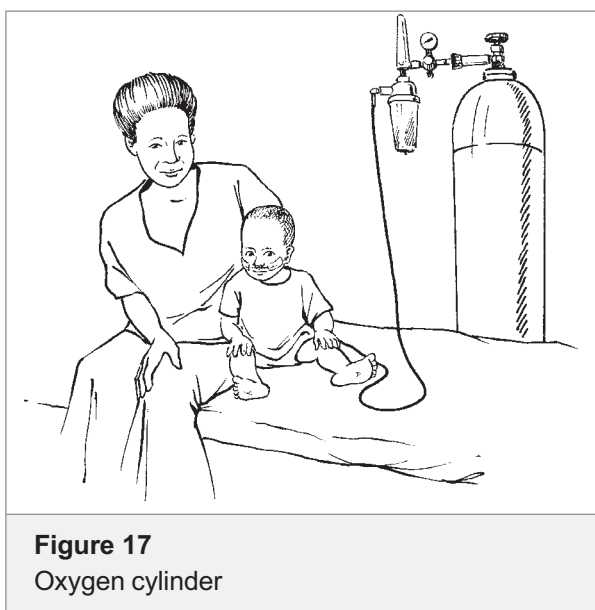


Figure 17
Oxygen cylinder

Oxygen delivery

Two methods are recommended for the delivery of oxygen in an emergency setting: nasal prongs and nasal catheter. Nasal prongs are best for delivering oxygen to young infants and children with severe croup or pertussis; do not use a nasal catheter as they provoke paroxysms of coughing.

An alternative method in emergency settings is the use of a face mask, which requires higher flow rates. It is therefore not suitable for permanent oxygen delivery on the ward, as it wastes a precious resource. It is important to have the proper equipment to control oxygen flow rates (0.5-2 litres/minute).

- **Nasal prongs** (see Figure 18) are short tubes inserted into the nostrils. Place them just inside the nostrils and secure with a piece of tape on the cheeks near the nose (see Figure 19). Care should be taken to keep the nostrils clear of mucus, which could block the flow of oxygen. Set a flow rate of 0.5-1 litres/min in infants and 1-2 litres/min if older in order to deliver 30-35% oxygen concentration in the inspired air. Prongs come in different sizes for adults and children. If you have only adult-size prongs, and the outlet tubes are too far apart to fit into the child's nostrils, cut the outlet tubes off and direct the jet of the oxygen into the nostrils.
- A **nasal catheter** is made from tubing of 6 or 8 FG size such as a nasogastric tube or suction catheter. The tubing is inserted into either nostril a distance equivalent to that from the child's nostril to the inner eyebrow (see Figure 20). It must then be firmly secured using tape, and connected to the oxygen. The tip of the catheter should NOT be visible below the uvula. Set a **flow rate of 0.5-1 litres for infants and 1-2 litres/min for older children**, which delivers an oxygen concentration of 45-60% in the inspired air.

- A** Infant size prongs
B Adult size prongs
 Note: the distance between the outlet tubes is larger and the tubes are thicker
C Joined prongs for adults with a connector between 2 separate pieces of tubing

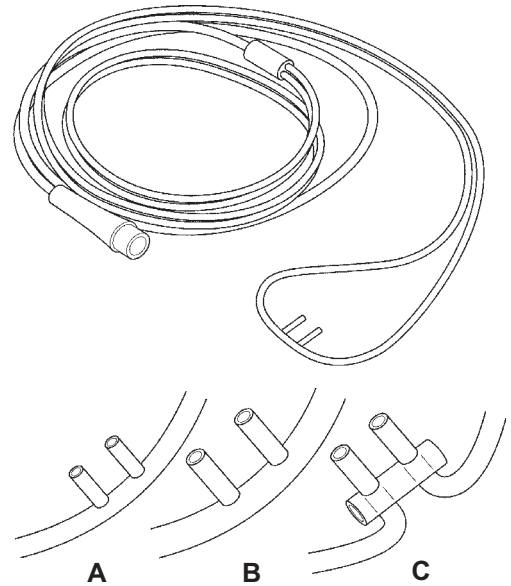


Figure 18
Nasal prongs with tubing



Figure 19
Nasal prongs correctly positioned and secured



Figure 20
Correct position of nasal catheter (cross-sectional view)

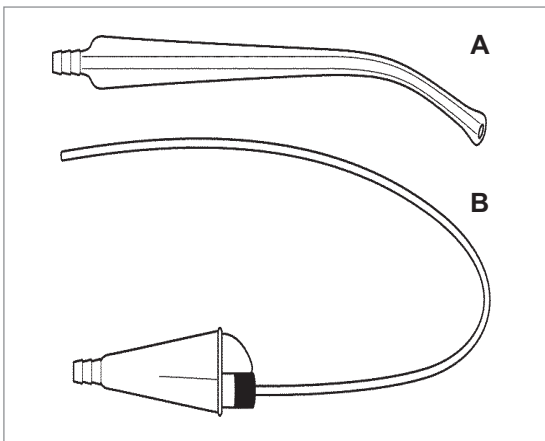


Figure 21
Yankhauer (A) catheter and Suction (B) catheter for clearing secretions from the airway

Practice (using equipment)

At this point it is important for you to be familiar with the equipment in your own department. You should be able to put together and take apart a self-inflating bag. You should be able to work the oxygen cylinder or oxygen concentrator. You can find out which size masks you have and try them on real patients to get an idea which size suits which age group. You can also practise the chin lift.

SUMMARY

To assess the airway and breathing you need to know:

- Is the airway obstructed?
- Is the child breathing?
- Is the child cyanosed?
- Are there signs of severe respiratory distress?

If the patient is not breathing you need to:

- Open the airway
- Remove any foreign body
- Ventilate with a bag and mask.

In all cases of airway or breathing problems:

- Give oxygen: 0.5 1 litre/min (<1-year-olds) and 1 2 litres/minute (older children).

Assessment questions: Airway and Breathing

Answer all the questions on this page, writing in the given spaces. If you have a problem, ask for help from one of the facilitators.

1. List the three things you do to check airway and breathing:

2. List three signs of severe respiratory distress:

3. Does stridor occur in inspiration or expiration?

4. When opening the airway of an infant (<12 months) who has not been subjected to trauma, name the part of the body that should point upwards.

5. What size of tubing should you use for a nasal catheter?

6. At what flow (volume/time) should oxygen be started?

7. You have successfully removed a coin from the trachea (windpipe) of a three-year old boy by applying Heimlich's manoeuvre. You checked his respiration and found that he was breathing normally. What do you do next?

8. A 4-year old boy hit by a bicycle was carried in on a blanket. The child was unconscious responding only to pain. His breathing was noisy. What do you do?

9. A nine-month girl and her older brother have been playing in the emergency department with an old bead necklace, suddenly the child is brought to you by one of the nurses, the child is choking. What do you do?

10. A three-year old boy is carried into the outpatient department in his father's arms. He is pale, floppy and having difficulty breathing. His father says he has been unwell and coughing for 3 days. Weight 14kg. He breathes fast with heavy severe chest indrawing. The airway is patent. He is alert. How do you triage this child? What do you do?

Module Three

Circulation

The letter **C** in “ABCD” stands for

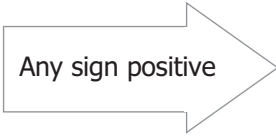
- **circulation** (assessment and management of shock);
- assessment and management of **coma**; and
- **convulsions**.

With experience you can assess these emergency signs very quickly, almost simultaneously. You can recognize some immediately, such as coma (unconsciousness) and convulsions.

These assessments are done if the assessment of airway and breathing was normal, or after emergency treatments have been given for any respiratory problems encountered.

In the table below, the signs are listed on the left and the corresponding treatments on the right. Complete the assessment of all the signs on the left before deciding on and initiating treatment. However, because the assessment is done quickly (in less than a minute) there is hardly any delay in beginning the necessary treatment. You always need to check whether the child may have head or neck trauma, because this will affect how you treat the child.

A	Airway
B	Breathing
C	Circulation
	Coma
	Convulsion
D	Dehydration (severe)

Table 2 Assessment and treatment of circulation			
C₁ CIRCULATION	Cold hand with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Capillary refill longer than 3 seconds, and ■ Weak and fast pulse 	 <p>Any sign positive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Stop any bleeding ➤ Give oxygen ➤ Make sure the child is warm <p>IF NO SEVERE MALNUTRITION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Insert IV and begin giving fluids rapidly. <p>If not able to insert peripheral IV, insert an external jugular or intra-osseous line.</p> <p>IF SEVERE MALNUTRITION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Give IV glucose ■ Proceed immediately to full assessment and treatment
Check for head/neck trauma before treating the child; do not move neck if cervical spine injury is possible.			

Assess the circulation

First in this section we will look at the assessment of circulation and signs of shock.

To assess if a child has a circulation problem you need to know:

- Does the child have warm hands?
- If not, is the capillary refill time longer than 3 seconds?
- And is the pulse weak and fast?

ARE THE CHILD'S HANDS WARM?

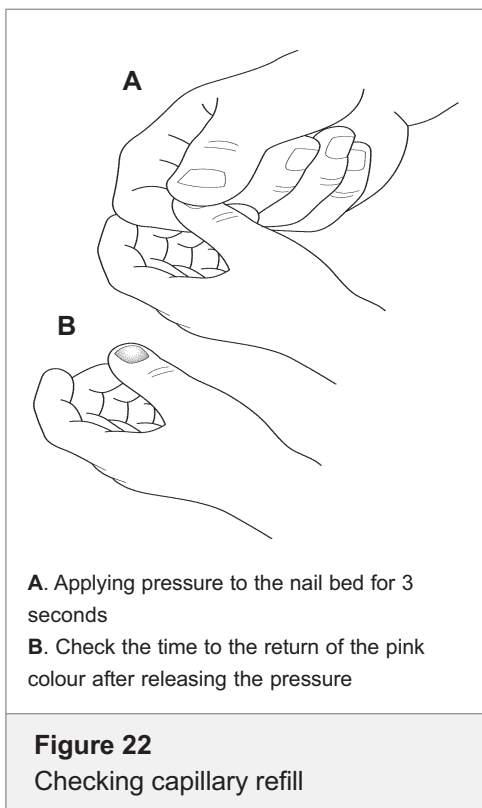
If the child's hands are warm, there is no problem with the circulation and you can move to the next assessment. If they are cold, you need to assess the circulation further. If the circulation is poor, as during shock, the blood flow moves to the most important parts of the body. So the hands, feet and skin get less blood and often feel cold.

To assess the circulation, take the child's hand in your own. If it feels warm, the child has no circulation problem and you do not need to assess capillary refill or pulse. If the child's hands feel cold, you need to assess the capillary refill.

IS THE CAPILLARY REFILL TIME LONGER THAN 3 SECONDS?

Capillary refill (see Figure 22) is a simple test that assesses how quickly blood returns to the skin after pressure is applied. It is carried out by applying pressure to the pink part of the nail bed of the thumb or big toe. The capillary refill time is the time from release of pressure to complete return of the pink colour. It should be less than 3 seconds. If it is more than 3 seconds the child is shocked. Capillary refill is prolonged in shock because the body tries to maintain blood flow to vital organs and reduces the blood supply to less important parts of the body like the skin (peripheral vasoconstriction). The vessels open slowly because of low pulse pressure. This sign is reliable except when the room temperature is low; a cold environment may also cause vasoconstriction and thus cause a delayed capillary refill. So you will need to check the pulse only if the room is cold.¹

To assess capillary refill, grasp the child's thumb or big toe between finger and thumb. Look at the pink of the nail bed. Apply minimal pressure necessary for 3 seconds to produce blanching of the nail bed. The pressure should be sufficient to cause blanching (a change in colour from pink to white). The pressure is applied for 3 seconds and then released. Time the capillary refill from the moment of release until total return of the pink colour. If the refill time is longer than 3 seconds, the child may have a circulation problem with shock. To confirm, it is necessary to check the pulses.



¹ In hot climates it may not be necessary to check the pulse. Low environmental temperatures do not exist and thus this will not be a cause of vasoconstriction and consequent delayed capillary refill.

IS THE PULSE WEAK AND FAST?

The radial pulse (the pulse at the wrist) should be felt. If this is strong and not obviously fast, the pulse is adequate; no further assessment is needed.

If the radial pulse is difficult to find, you need to look for a more central pulse (a pulse nearer to the heart). In an infant (less than one year of age) the best place to look is at the middle of the upper arm, the brachial pulse. If the child is lying down you could look for the femoral pulse in the groin. In an older child you should feel for the carotid pulse in the neck. The pulse should be strong. If the more central pulse feels weak, decide if it also seems fast. This is a subjective judgement and an exact count is not taken. If the central pulse is weak and fast, the child needs treatment for shock.

All these procedures can and should be practised on yourself, your friends, your children and family, and finally on real patients. This is the best way to improve in testing capillary refill and finding pulses.

Note that we do not recommend blood pressure to assess for shock because of two reasons: 1) Low blood pressure is a late sign in children and may not help identify treatable cases and 2) the BP cuff necessary in children of different age groups is mostly unavailable in many district hospitals.



Figure 23
Feeling the brachial pulse in an infant

Shock

The most common cause of shock in children is due to loss of fluid from circulation, either through loss from the body as in severe diarrhoea or when the child is bleeding, or through capillary leak in a disease such as severe Dengue fever. In all cases, it is important to replace this fluid quickly. An intravenous line must be inserted and fluids given rapidly in shocked children without severe malnutrition. The recommended volumes of fluids to treat shock depending on the age/weight of child are shown in Chart 7 (see Annex 3).

If the child has severe malnutrition, you must use a different fluid and a different rate of administration and monitor the child very closely. Therefore a different regime is used for these children. Treatment of shock in the malnourished child is shown in Chart 8 (see Annex 3).

TREATMENT OF SHOCK

If the child has **cold hands**, a **capillary refill time more than 3 seconds**, and a **fast weak pulse**, then he or she is in **shock**.

Treatment of shock requires teamwork. The following actions need to be started simultaneously:

- If the child has any bleeding, apply pressure to stop the bleeding
- Give oxygen
- Make sure the child is warm

To **assess the circulation**, you need to know:

1. Does the child have warm hands?
2. If not, is the capillary refill more than 3 seconds?
3. And is the pulse weak and fast?

In other words, is the **child shocked?**

- Select an appropriate site for administration of fluids
- Establish IV or intraosseous access
- Take blood samples for emergency laboratory tests
- Begin giving fluids for shock.

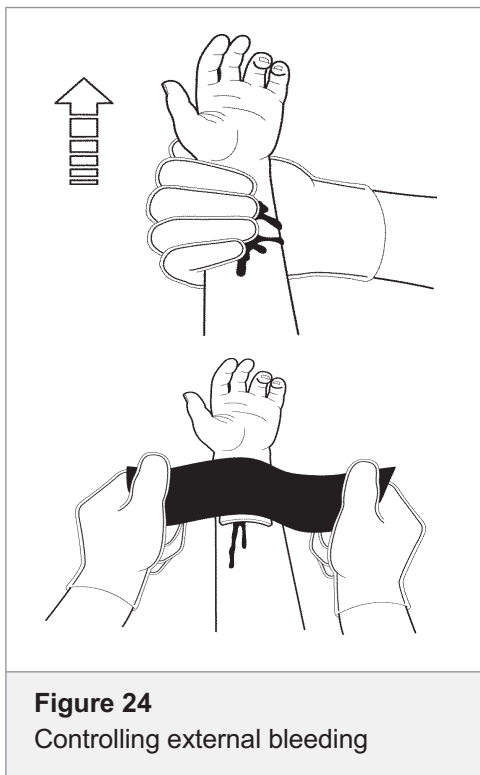


Figure 24
Controlling external bleeding

Stop any bleeding

The best and safest way to stop bleeding is to apply firm and direct pressure to the point that is bleeding. Do not use a tourniquet.

Give oxygen

All children who are in shock require oxygen. It can be given in any of the ways discussed in the previous section.

Make sure the child is warm

This should be done by ensuring that the child is dry and covered with blankets or warm clothing.

Select an appropriate site for administration of fluids

The most appropriate route for administration is intravenous and a peripheral vein is preferable but not always accessible. Alternatives are intraosseous infusion or a central vein catheter. Read Annex 1: Practical procedures for establishing IV access.

Give intravenous fluid

Firstly consider if the child also has severe malnutrition before selecting treatment as shown on Table 3.

Before giving the IV
fluid check for **severe
malnutrition**

Children with severe malnutrition are difficult to assess and manage. The malnourished child may appear lethargic and have sunken eyes and a very slow skin pinch as he/she has no subcutaneous fat. Malnutrition not only affects the muscles but also the organs we cannot see. The heart can become very weak and may fail if it has to pump large volumes of fluid. When this happens fluid accumulates in the lungs (lung oedema) and makes breathing difficult with the child getting worse or even critical.

Therefore, a child who is severely malnourished should not be treated by rapid IV infusion of fluids. The signs of dehydration overestimate the degree of dehydration in the severely malnourished child. It is important to involve a senior health worker early in the management of these children.

To check for **severe malnutrition**:

- **Look for visible severe wasting**

A child with visible severe wasting has a form of malnutrition called marasmus. To assess for this sign, look rapidly at the arms and legs and pull up the shirt to look at the chest (see Figure 25). The marasmic child does not look just thin, but appears to be all skin and bone. The skin looks too large for the body, there is no fat on the child and you will see the outlines of the ribs. There is also severe muscle wasting of the arms, legs and buttocks. The head may appear relatively large because of wasting of the body.

■ **Check for oedema of both feet**

Oedema is a major sign of kwashiorkor, a severe form of long-standing malnutrition. To assess for oedema you first need to look at the feet after removing the booties or shoes. Press the top of the foot gently with your thumb for a few seconds. Oedema is present if a definite dent is left in the tissues. Look and feel to determine if the child has oedema of both feet. Use your thumb to press gently for a few seconds on the topside of each foot (see Figure 26). The child has oedema if there is an impression when you lift your thumb. Check if the other foot also has oedema. Localized oedema can be due to injury or infection.

The recommended fluids and rates of administration are shown in Charts 7 and 8 (see Annex 3) and summarized in the tables on the next two pages. However, if the child has severe malnutrition, you must use a different fluid and a different rate of administration and monitor the child very closely. Children with severe malnutrition are very delicate and can easily go into congestive heart failure from intravenous fluids. Sometimes children with severe malnutrition have circulatory signs suggesting shock, but have sepsis rather than hypovolemia. It is important to involve a clinician who understands the guidelines for caring for a child with severe malnutrition; the clinician should immediately carry out a full assessment to understand the clinical situation of the child. If at all possible, avoid IV – use a nasogastric (NG) tube or oral fluids. If the child cannot swallow or tolerate an NG tube (e.g. vomiting), use ½-strength normal saline with 5% glucose at 15 ml/kg in 1 hr, but monitor carefully and remove as soon as it is safe to do so. Stay with the child and check the pulse and breathing rate every 5 minutes. Discontinue the intravenous infusion if either of these increase (pulse by 15, respiratory rate by 5/min).

Before giving the IV fluids, check for severe malnutrition. Note the differences in fluid type and volume between the well-nourished and the severely malnourished.

Charts 7 and 8 give approximate volumes by age groups. This is a useful guideline in the emergency situation, when you may not have a chance to weigh the child. It may be helpful to put this chart on the wall in your department.

If you reassess the circulation and find a definite improvement at any stage, the pulse has slowed or the capillary refill has improved, you can prescribe maintenance fluids and move onto the next stage of triage.

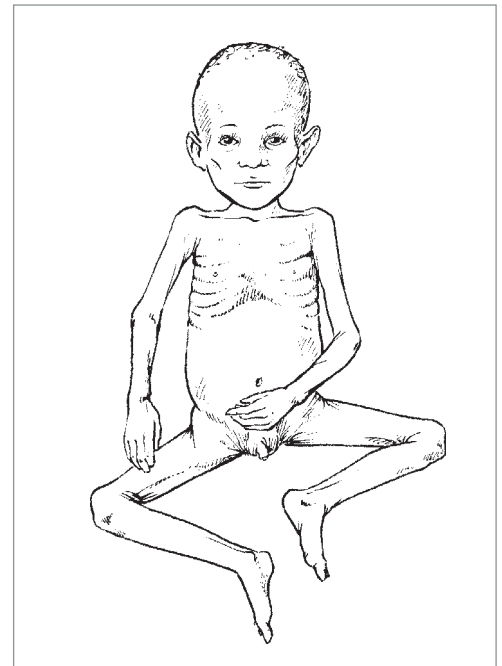
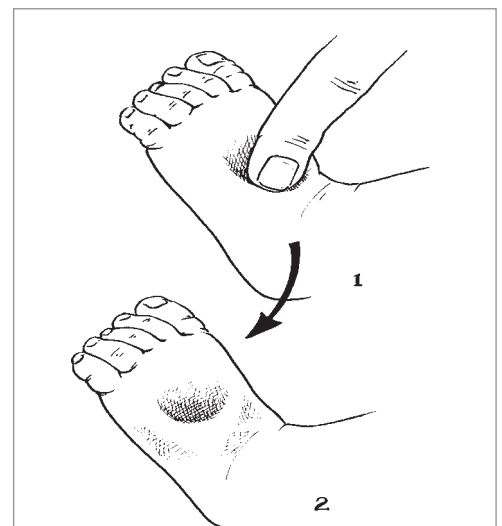


Figure 25
Visible severe wasting (marasmus)



After applying pressure for a few seconds, a pit remains after the finger is removed

Figure 26
Pitting oedema on dorsum foot

Table 3
Treatment of shock

If the child has NO severe malnutrition See Chart 7	If the child HAS severe malnutrition See Chart 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Insert an intravenous line (and draw blood for emergency laboratory investigations). ■ Fix the cannula and immobilize the extremity with a splint. ■ Attach Ringer's lactate or normal saline - make sure the infusion is running well. ■ Infuse 20 ml/kg as rapidly as possible. ■ The circulation should be reassessed as described before. <p>Improvement: warmer hands, pulse slows and capillary refill faster.</p> <p>If there is NO improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Give another 20 ml/kg of Ringer's lactate or normal saline as quickly as possible. Reassess the circulation again, and if there is still no improvement. ■ Give another 20 ml/kg of Ringer's lactate or normal saline, as quickly as possible. The circulation should be assessed again. <p>If there is still NO improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Give 20 ml/kg of blood over 30 minutes unless there is profuse watery diarrhoea. In this case, repeat Ringer's lactate. The circulation should be assessed again. <p>If there is still NO improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ See inpatient treatment guidelines for underlying condition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Avoid IV, find out if the child can drink or use a nasogastric tube (NGT). ■ Weigh the child. ■ Insert an intravenous line (and draw blood for emergency laboratory investigations). ■ Fix the cannula and immobilize the extremity with a splint. ■ Give ReSoMal rehydration fluid orally or by NGT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 ml/kg every 30 min for 2 hours, then - 5-10 ml/kg/hour for 4-10 hours, or - give half-strength normal saline (or half strength Darrows with 5% glucose) with 5% glucose at 15 ml/kg give over 1 hour ■ Stay with the child and check the pulse and breathing rate every 5-10 minutes. ■ Discontinue the intravenous infusion if either of these increase (pulse by 15, respiratory rate by 5/ min). <p>If there IS improvement: pulse and breathing rate fall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Repeat 15ml/kg over 1 hour. ■ Switch to oral or NGT rehydration with ReSoMal 10ml/kg/hour. <p>If there is NO improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Call senior health worker. ■ Give maintenance IV fluid 4ml/kg/hour while waiting for blood. ■ Transfuse fresh whole blood at 10ml/kg/hour slowly over 3 hours (use packed cells if in cardiac failure).

Table 4 Maintenance fluids	
If the child has NO severe malnutrition See Chart 11	If the child HAS severe malnutrition
<p>Give 70 ml/kg of Ringer's lactate solution (or, if not available, normal saline)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ over 5 hours in infants (aged <12 months); ■ over 2½ hours in children (aged 12 months to 5 years). <p>Reassess the child every 1-2 hours. If the condition is not improving, give the IV fluids more rapidly.</p> <p>Also give ORS solution (about 5 ml/kg/hour) as soon as the child can drink; this is usually:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ after 3-4 hours (in infants); ■ after 1-2 hours (in children). <p>Encourage breastfeeding:</p> <p>Reassess after 6 hours (infants) and after 3 hours (children)</p>	<p>Continue ReSoMal 5-10ml/kg/hour for the next 4-10 hours.</p> <p>See guidelines in the "Pocket book of hospital care for children" or the manual "Management of the child with a serious infection or severe malnutrition."</p>

Assessing all children		SUMMARY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Does the child have warm hands? ■ Is the capillary refill time more than 3 seconds? ■ Is the pulse fast and weak? <p>In other words, is the child shocked?</p>		
IF SHOCKED		
If the child has NO severe malnutrition	If the child HAS severe malnutrition	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Stop any bleeding ■ Give oxygen ■ Keep child warm ■ Give IV fluids rapidly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Stop any bleeding ■ Give oxygen ■ Keep child warm ■ Assess if child can drink oral or NGT fluids ■ Give IV fluids if child unable to tolerate oral or fluids by nasogastric tube 	

Assessment questions: Circulation

Answer all the questions on this page, writing in the given spaces. If you have a problem, ask for help from one of the facilitators.

1. Define a normal capillary refill time.

2. If you cannot feel the radial pulse in an older child, which pulse should you look for next?

3. Name the two types of fluid you can give to treat shock initially.

4. Which fluid would you give to a child in shock with signs of severe malnutrition?

5. What volume of fluid would you give to a well nourished one-year old weighing 11 kg who is in shock?

6. How many times can you give this bolus of fluid in shock before calling a senior health worker?

7. In triage of a two-year old girl you find her hands are warm, what do you do next?

8. In triage of an 18-month old, well-fed boy, you find his hands are cold. What do you do next?

9. In triage of a 10-year old boy who was rushed to emergency after falling from a coconut palm half an hour earlier, you find his hands are cold and the capillary refill time is longer than three seconds. What do you do next?

10. What are two contra-indications for setting up an intraosseous infusion?

11. Can you give blood through an intraosseous infusion? And antibiotics, in case these are needed?

12. A four-months old baby is brought to hospital with fever, rapid breathing and refusing to breastfeed. She has had 2 episodes of vomiting and watery diarrhoea. Weight 5 kg. Her hands are cold. The capillary refill is 6 seconds. The femoral pulse is palpable but fast and weak. There is no chest indrawing and there are no abnormal respiratory noises. How do you triage the baby? How do you manage the baby?

Coma and convulsion

Here we shall look at the second and third components in which **C** represents “coma and convulsion”.

The following signs indicate impaired neurological status: coma, lethargy, and convulsions.

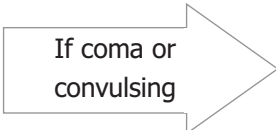
A	Airway
B	Breathing
C	Circulation
	Coma Convulsion
D	Dehydration (severe)

Assess the child for coma and convulsion

To assess the child’s neurological status you need to know:

- Is the child in coma?
- Is the child convulsing?

A child who is awake and alert, or is playing and talking, obviously does not have a dangerous or disturbed level of consciousness

Table 5 Assessment and treatment of coma and convulsion			
<p>C₂ COMA</p> <p>C₃ CONVULSION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Coma or ■ Convulsing (now) 	 <p>If coma or convulsing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Manage the airway ➤ Give oxygen ➤ If convulsing, give diazepam rectally ➤ Position the child (if head or neck trauma is suspected, stabilize the neck first) ➤ Give IV glucose

IS THE CHILD IN COMA?

A child who is awake is obviously conscious and you can move to the next component of the assessment. If the child is asleep, ask the mother if the child is just sleeping. If there is any doubt, you need to assess the level of consciousness:

try to wake the child by talking to him/her, e.g. call his/her name loudly. A child who does not respond to this should be gently shaken. A little shake to the arm or leg should be enough to wake a sleeping child. Do not move the child's neck. If this is unsuccessful, apply a firm squeeze to the nail bed, enough to cause some pain. A child who does not wake to voice or being shaken or to pain is unconscious. To help you assess the conscious level of a child is, a simple scale (AVPU) is used:

- A** Is the child **A**lert? If not,
- V** Is the child responding to **V**oice? If not,
- P** Is the child responding to **P**ain?
- U** The child who is **U**nresponsive to voice (or being shaken) **AND** to pain is **U**nconscious.

A child who is not alert, but responds to voice, is lethargic. An unconscious child may or may not respond to pain. **A child with a coma scale of "P" or "U" will receive emergency treatment for coma as described below.**

The assessments and signs discussed above are clearly illustrated on video. You should now watch the relevant section of the video. These assessments cannot be demonstrated in photographic form, so if you do not have a video player, you will have to ask the staff in your department to demonstrate this on real patients. You should also practise your assessment of consciousness on real patients.

IS THE CHILD CONVULSING NOW?

This assessment depends on your observation of the child and **not** on the history from the parent. Children who have a history of convulsion, but are alert during triage, need a complete clinical history and investigation, but no emergency treatment for convulsions. The child must be seen to have a convulsion during the triage process or while waiting in the outpatient department. You can recognize a convulsion by the sudden loss of consciousness associated with uncontrolled jerky movements of the limbs and/or the face. There is stiffening of the child's arms and legs and uncontrolled movements of the limbs. The child may lose control of the bladder, and is unconscious during and after the convulsion.

Sometimes, in infants, the jerky movements may be absent, but there may be twitching (abnormal facial movements) and abnormal movements of the eyes, hands or feet. You have to observe the infant carefully.

Treatment of coma and convulsion

Treatment of coma and convulsions are similar and will be described together.

COMA	CONVULSION
<p>If the child is unconscious you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Manage the airway ■ Position the child (if there is a history of trauma, stabilize neck first) ■ Check the blood sugar ■ Give IV glucose 	<p>If the child is convulsing now, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Manage the airway ■ Position the child ■ Check blood sugar ■ Give IV glucose ■ Give anticonvulsant

MANAGE THE AIRWAY

Coma

Managing the airway is done in the same way as treating any child with an airway or breathing problem. This has been discussed in Module 2. You may find it useful to read through this again. Give oxygen for the emergency setting.

Convulsion

To manage the airway of a convulsing child, do not try to insert anything in the mouth to keep it open. If the lips and tongue are not blue, do not try to manage the airway by lifting the chin or using a jaw thrust.

POSITION THE CHILD

Coma

Any unconscious child who is breathing and keeping the airway open should be placed in the recovery position. This position helps to reduce the risk of vomit entering the child's lungs (see Figure 27). It should only be used in children who have not been subjected to trauma.

If neck trauma is not suspected:

- Turn the child on the side to reduce risk of aspiration
- Keep the neck slightly extended and stabilize by placing the cheek on one hand
- Bend one leg to stabilize the body position

If trauma is suspected:

- Stabilize the child while lying on the back
- Use the "log roll" technique to turn the child on the side if the child is vomiting

Convulsion

If the child is having a convulsion, do not attempt to hold him/her down or put anything in the child's mouth. If the child vomits turn the child on his/her side to avoid aspiration. If the convulsion has stopped and the airway is clear, the child can be placed in the recovery position (see Figure 19).

CHECK THE BLOOD SUGAR

Coma and convulsion

Where blood glucose results can be obtained quickly (e.g. with dextrostix), this should be measured immediately. Hypoglycaemia is present if the measured blood glucose level is low <2.5 mmol/l (45 mg/dl) in a well nourished or <3 mmol/litre (55 mg/dl) in a severely malnourished child).

This test is easy to perform. Your department will require a supply of dextrostix. You will need a drop of blood, taken from the heel of a young infant or by finger prick from an older infant or child, or from blood obtained at the insertion of an intravenous line.

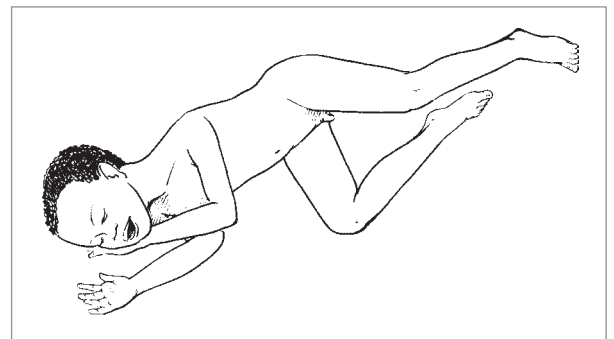


Figure 27

Positioning the unconscious child (recovery position)

When the blood glucose cannot be measured, hypoglycaemia should be assumed to be present in all children in coma or having a convulsion AND should be treated

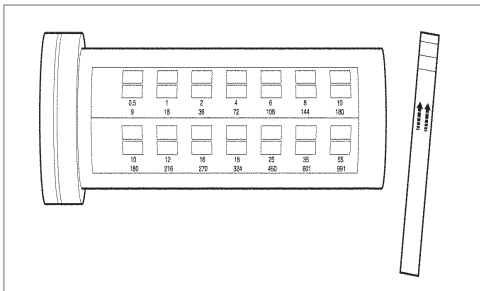


Figure 28
Blood glucose stick with colour scale printed on the box

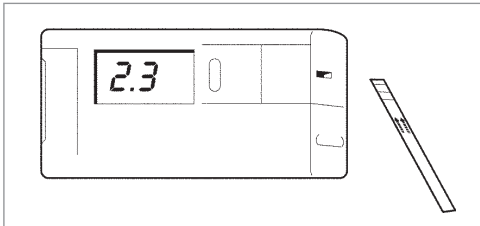


Figure 29
Blood glucose stick with a reading machine



Figure 30
Suitable areas for a heel stab in a young infant

Blood is dropped onto the end of the stick, on the reagent area, and left for 60 seconds. It is not necessary to cover the entire test strip. After 60 seconds, wash the blood off gently with drops of cold water or blot off the blood. Depending on the instructions for the use of the stick, wait for another 60 seconds, and compare the colour of the test area with the key on the side of the container, or use a battery-operated reader. If the blood glucose is less than 2.5 mmol/litre, the child has a low blood glucose and needs treatment. If you compare the ranges on the colour code, usually you can only distinguish <2 mmol/l, and 2-4 mmol/l. In a well-nourished child, the result should read over 2 mmol/l. Remember that the blood sugar in a malnourished child is already between 2 and 4. It is better to treat a child whose sugar is borderline than to withhold it. Malnourished children have no energy stores, so, unlike well-nourished children, they cannot maintain their blood sugar in a crisis.

GIVE IV GLUCOSE

Coma and convulsion

- Insert an IV line and draw blood for emergency laboratory investigations.
- Give 5 ml/kg of 10% glucose solution rapidly by IV injection (see Table 6, including dilutions of 50% glucose to make 10% solution and Chart 10 in Annex 3).
- Recheck the blood glucose in 30 minutes. If it is still low, repeat 5 ml/kg of 10% glucose solution.
- Feed the child as soon as conscious.

If the child is not able to feed without danger of aspiration, give:

- IV fluid containing 5-10% glucose (dextrose), or
- Milk or sugar solution via nasogastric tube.

To make sugar solution, dissolve four level teaspoons of sugar (20 grams) in a 200-ml cup of clean water.

This is a useful guideline in an emergency situation when you may not have a chance to weigh the child. It may be helpful to put it on the wall in your department.

Table 6
Amount of glucose to give by age

Age/weight	Volume of 10% glucose solution to be given as bolus (5 ml/kg)	To make up 10% glucose using 50% glucose solution	
		Volume of 50% glucose	With added volume of water
Less than 2 months (<4kg)	15 ml	3ml	12ml
2 - <4 months (4 - <6 kg)	25 ml	5ml	20ml
4 - <12 months (6 - <10 kg)	40 ml	8ml	32ml
1 - <3 years (10 - <14 kg)	60 ml	12ml	48ml
3 - <5 years (14 - <19 kg)	80 ml	16ml	64ml

Note: 50% glucose solution is the same as 50% dextrose solution (D50). If only 50% glucose solution is available: dilute 1 part 50% glucose solution to 4 parts sterile water, or dilute 1 part 50% glucose solution to 9 parts 5% glucose solution. If you only have smaller syringes, divide the amounts accordingly, always mixing 1 part of 50% glucose with 4 parts of sterile water.

GIVE AN ANTICONVULSANT

Convulsion

Diazepam is a drug to stop convulsions (anticonvulsant). It is the first drug to use if the child is convulsing in front of you. No drug should be given if the convulsion has stopped. Diazepam can be given by the rectal or intravenous route. Rectal diazepam acts within 2 to 4 minutes. In an emergency it is easier and quicker to give it rectally than intravenously, unless an intravenous line is already running. The dose is 0.5mg/kg (0.1 ml/kg) rectally or 0.25mg/kg (0.05 ml/kg) intravenously. Estimated doses of rectal diazepam and paraldehyde are shown in Table 7 below. This is a useful guideline in an emergency situation when you may not have a chance to weigh the child. It may be helpful to put it on the wall in your department.

Table 7 Diazepam and paraldehyde dosages by age for the treatment of convulsions		
Age/weight	Diazepam given rectally (10 mg/2ml solution) Dose 0.1 ml/kg	Paraldehyde given rectally Dose 0.3-0.4 ml/kg
2 weeks to 2 months (<4kg)	0.3 ml (1.5 mg)	1.0 ml
2 - <4 months (4 - <6 kg)	0.5 ml (2.5 mg)	1.6 ml
4 - <12 months (6 - <10 kg)	1.0 ml (5.5 mg)	2.4 ml
1 - <3 years (10 - <14 kg)	1.25 ml (6.25 mg)	4 ml
3 - <5 years (14 - <19 kg)	1.5 ml (7.5 mg)	5 ml

Base the dose on the weight of the child, where possible. Draw up the dose from an ampoule of diazepam into a tuberculin (1 ml)¹ syringe. Then remove the needle. Insert the syringe 4 to 5 cm (about the length of your little finger) into the rectum and inject the diazepam solution. Hold the buttocks together for a few minutes. If you already have intravenous access, you can give the correct volume of drug directly, but slowly, in at least one full minute.

Reassess the child after 10 minutes.

If still convulsing, give a second dose of diazepam, rectally or, even better, give paraldehyde (or diazepam intravenously slowly over 1 minute if an IV infusion is running). If the convulsion continues in spite of this second dose, a third dose can be given. Alternatively phenobarbital IV or IM can be used. The recommended dose is 15-20mg/kg. At this stage, a senior health worker should be involved.

Diazepam can affect the child's breathing, so it is important to reassess the airway and breathing regularly.

Phenobarbital is the drug of first choice in infants <2 weeks of age to control convulsions

¹ A 2 ml syringe can be used if a tuberculin syringe is not available.

Table 8
Dose of Phenobarbital for young infants

Weight of infant	2 kg or less	3 kg or less
Initial dose of phenobarbital, 20mg/kg, 200mg/ml solution	0.2 ml	0.3 ml
Repeat dose if convulsions continue	0.1 ml	0.15 ml

If there is high fever:

- Sponge the child with room-temperature water to reduce the fever.
- Do not give oral medication until the convulsion has been controlled (danger of aspiration).

If you have a video player, you should now watch the section entitled “Management of neurological problems”. The video shows how to check the blood sugar, give rectal diazepam, and position the child correctly. If you do not have a video player, photographs also illustrate these procedures. As before, there is no substitute for practice. You can practise the recovery position on real patients, as well as checking blood sugars on any blood samples obtained in your department.

In a child having a convulsion the blood sugar can be checked immediately or after the first dose of diazepam has been given

SUMMARY

COMA

If the child is unconscious, you need to:

- Manage the airway
- Check the blood sugar
- Position the child

CONVULSION

If the child is convulsing, you need to:

- Manage the airway
- Check the blood sugar
- Give diazepam
- Position the child

If the child does not have shock, and is not unconscious or convulsing, quickly continue the assessment for emergency signs. If the child is unconscious or is convulsing, you should initiate appropriate treatment, and then quickly resume the assessment.

Assessment questions: Coma and convulsion

Answer all the questions on this page, writing in the given spaces. If you have a problem, ask for help from one of the facilitators.

1. What do the letters AVPU stand for?

2. What is the cut-off level for low blood sugar?

3. How much 10% glucose would you give to a six-month-old weighing 8 kg and having a low blood sugar?

4. A child who is unconscious, with no history of trauma, but maintaining the airway should be put in which position?

5. How much rectal diazepam (in ml of the 10mg/2ml solution) would you give to a four-yearold weighing 15 kg who is having a convulsion? How long should you wait before giving a second dose if the convulsion does not stop?

6. A 15-month old girl has been sleeping all day. She does not answer to a call from her mother. But she responds to a pinch on her chest. What stage of AVPU do you assign her? While on examination, she started to move her limbs abnormally and her eyes rolled sideways and there were frothy secretions in her mouth. What is the most appropriate measure to take?

7. A two-year old boy is carried in by his grandmother. He weighs 12 kg. He is hot and having a seizure. What are the next steps to stop the convulsion? And when the convulsion stops, what do you do?

8. A three-year old girl was brought in because she was abnormally sleepy and not responding at all. The father said he took her to a nearby clinic for cough and vomiting and he was being given tablets. She did not take any food. What is the next most appropriate step?

9. An 18-month old boy has been unwell and feverish for two days. He complains of abdominal pain and his mother has noticed that he has fast breathing. He weighs 11 kg. His airway is fine, and he has no chest indrawing. There is no history of diarrhoea. However, the boy started to convulse while being examined. What are the most appropriate measures?

10. A 10-week old baby was brought in. His mother says he will not suckle today because he is crying a lot. He feels very hot on touch. He weighs 3.5 kg. Airway, breathing and circulation are normal. There is no history of diarrhoea and no dehydration. How do you triage the baby? What are the next steps?

11. A 14-month old girl has been sleeping all day. She is irritable when awoken, but rouses to loud voice or shaking her arm. Her hands are warm but look a bit pale. The mother says she has no diarrhoea or vomiting. Her breathing is deep and her lower chest wall goes in when she breathes in. How do you triage this child? What are the next steps?

Dehydration

The letter D in the ABCD formula stands for Dehydration. These assessments can take place if those for A B and C were all normal, or if emergency treatments have been given for any problem encountered. If there are no signs of dehydration, you can move on to look for priority signs.

In this section we will look at the assessment of severe dehydration in the child with diarrhoea or vomiting. If the child is severely malnourished these signs are not as reliable.

A	Airway
B	Breathing
C	Circulation
	Coma
	Convulsion
D	Dehydration (severe)

DOES THE CHILD HAVE DIARRHOEA?

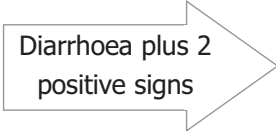
This information comes from the parent or guardian. If the child has no diarrhoea, do not check for dehydration and you can move to the next assessment.

Assess for severe dehydration

To assess if the child is severely dehydrated you need to know:

- Is the child lethargic?
- Does the child have sunken eyes?
- Does a skin pinch take longer than 2 seconds to go back?

In Table 9 below, the signs are listed on the left and the corresponding treatments on the right. Complete the assessment of all the signs on the left before deciding on and initiating treatment.

Table 9 Severe dehydration			
<p>D</p> <p>SEVERE DEHYDRATION (in child with diarrhoea only)</p>	<p>Diarrhoea plus any two of these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lethargy ■ Sunken eyes ■ Very slow skin pinch 	 <p>Diarrhoea plus 2 positive signs</p>	<p>IF NO SEVERE MALNUTRITION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Insert IV line and begin giving fluids rapidly following Plan C. <p>IF SEVERE MALNUTRITION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Do not insert IV, but proceed immediately to assessment and treatment.

Given below are step-by-step descriptions of how to assess each of these signs. If the child has diarrhoea, assess the following signs to determine if the child has severe dehydration.

IS THE CHILD LETHARGIC?

In the older child lethargy is quite easy to assess. You have already assessed the state of consciousness of the child using the AVPU scale. Now observe if the child appears drowsy and does not show interest in what is happening around him/her. A lethargic child may not look at the mother or watch your face when you talk. The child may stare blankly and appear not to notice what is going on around him/her.

Does the child know his/her name and answer questions sensibly? If the child responds to voice but remains drowsy, he/she is lethargic. In the younger child, signs of lethargy are harder to assess.

DOES THE CHILD HAVE SUNKEN EYES?

Look at the child's eyes to determine if they appear unusually sunken in their sockets (see Figure 31). Ask the mother if the child's eyes are more sunken than usual, or if the skin around them appears darker than usual.

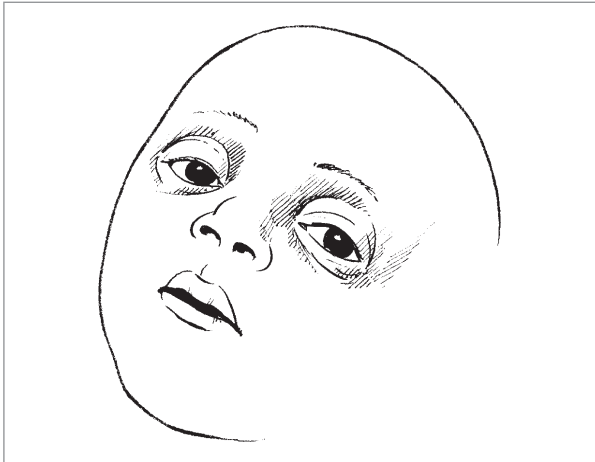


Figure 31
Sunken eyes

DOES A SKIN PINCH GO BACK VERY SLOWLY (LONGER THAN 2 SECONDS)?

This is a simple test to look at how elastic the skin is. If the child is not dehydrated, the skin will be elastic and, when pinched and released, will return to normal straight away. Try this on yourself. The dehydrated child will have lost fluid. The body moves fluid from less important places, such as the skin, to maintain the circulation. The skin becomes less elastic and, when pinched, is slow to return.

Locate the area on the child's abdomen halfway between the umbilicus and the side of the abdomen. Avoiding using your fingertips, as this is painful. Pinch the skin in a vertical (head to foot) direction and not across the child's body. You should pick up all the layers of the skin and the tissue underneath. Pinch for one second and then release. See whether the skin goes back very slowly (longer than 2 seconds).

If the child has diarrhoea plus two of the above signs (lethargy, sunken eyes, and very slow skin pinch), the child has severe dehydration.

Severe dehydration is present if the child has a history of diarrhoea plus any two of the following signs: lethargy, sunken eyes or slow skin pinch (longer than two seconds).

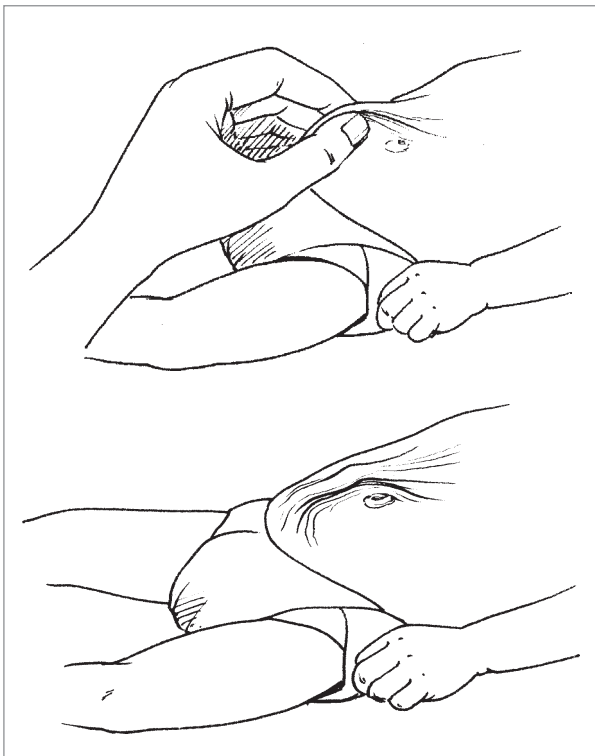


Figure 32
Skin pinch

If the triage assessment determines that a child has severe dehydration, you must also check for severe malnutrition. It is difficult to assess dehydration in a child with severe malnutrition.

The assessments and signs discussed above are clearly illustrated on video. You should now watch the section entitled “Assessment of dehydration”. If you do not have a video player, the photographs supplied illustrate sunken eyes and the skin pinch. As in previous sections you will get the opportunity to see all the signs on real patients.

Treatment of severe dehydration in an emergency setting

If the child has shock, treat this first (see Module 3: Circulation).

SEVERE DEHYDRATION (WITHOUT SHOCK OR SEVERE MALNUTRITION)

Give the child a large quantity of fluids quickly. The fluids replace the body’s large fluid loss. This is shown in Diarrhoea Treatment Plan C (Chart 11 in Annex 3). The first portion of the IV fluid (30 ml/kg) is given very rapidly. This will restore the blood volume and prevent death from shock. Then 70 ml/kg is given more slowly to complete the rehydration. In all cases the fluid of choice is Ringer’s lactate.

Give oral fluids

As soon as the child can drink you should give oral fluids in addition to the drip. Use ORS and give 5 ml/kg every hour.

Example

The following example describes how to treat a child with SEVERE DEHYDRATION according to Plan C.

A six-month old (9 kg) girl, Ellen, had diarrhoea with SEVERE DEHYDRATION. She was not in shock and did not have severe malnutrition. She was not able to drink. The health worker decided to treat the infant with IV fluid according to Plan C.

The health worker gave Ellen 270 ml (30 ml x 9 kg) of Ringer’s lactate by IV during the first hour. Over the following five hours, he gave her 630 ml of IV fluid (70 ml x 9 kg), approximately 125 ml per hour. The health worker assessed the infant’s hydration status every 1-2 hours (that is, he assessed for dehydration). Her hydration status was improving, so the health worker continued giving Ellen the fluid at a steady rate.

After 4 hours of IV treatment, Ellen was able to drink. The health worker continued giving her IV fluid and began giving her approximately 45 ml of ORS solution to drink per hour.

After Ellen had been on IV fluid for 6 hours, the health worker reassessed her dehydration. She had improved and was reclassified as SOME DEHYDRATION. The health worker chose Plan B to continue treatment. The health worker stopped the IV fluid. He began giving Ellen ORS solution as indicated in Plan B.

GIVE FLUIDS BY NASOGASTRIC TUBE IF YOU CANNOT SET UP AN INTRAVENOUS INFUSION

Sometimes it can be very hard to set a drip. In this case call for help and while waiting, start nasogastric fluid replacement. Use Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) in all cases. Give 20 ml/kg every hour for six hours.

The above example describes the entire rehydration according to Plan C. When you give emergency treatment to a child with severe dehydration, you will begin the initial rehydration¹. Determine the age and weight of the child. Determine the initial amount of fluid to give the child. Insert an IV line and start giving fluids.

Age	< 12 Months				1 year to 5 years			
	Total volume	Per hour	Drops per minute ²		Total volume	Per hour	Drops per minute	
Paediatric			Adult	Paediatric			Adult	
<4 kg	200	40 ml	40	13				
4 - <6 kg	350	70 ml	70	23				
6 - <10 kg	550	110 ml	110	37	550	220	220	73
10 - <14 kg	850	170 ml	170	57	850	340	340	113
14 - <19 kg	1200	240 ml	240	80	1200	480	480	160

Reassess the child every hour. If the hydration status is not improving, give the IV drip more rapidly.

Also give ORS solution (about 5ml/kg/hour) as soon as the child can drink; this is usually after 3-4 hours (in infants) or 1-2 hours (in children).

WEIGHT	VOLUME ORS SOLUTION PER HOUR
<4 kg	15 ml
4 - <6 kg	25 ml
6 - <10 kg	40 ml
10 - <14 kg	60 ml
14 - <19 kg	85 ml

Reassess after 6 hours (infants) and after 3 hours (children). Classify dehydration. Then choose the appropriate diarrhoea treatment plan to continue treatment.

If possible, observe the child for at least 6 hours after rehydration to be sure that the mother can maintain hydration by giving the child ORS solution by mouth.

¹ You or other staff will continue giving the child fluids, reassessing periodically and completing the rehydration. However, continuing the treatment is not described here as part of emergency treatment.

² The number of drops to be given per minute is based on the assumption that droppers in IV sets provide a fixed number of drops per ml. Micro droppers for infants give 60 drops per ml. The number of drops per minute is therefore equal to the number of ml per hour (60 drops divided by 60 minutes). IV sets for adults in most countries give 20 drops per ml. The figures in the table are based on this number. In case IV sets are used that give larger drops, e.g. 15 per ml, the number of drops per minute have to be adjusted.

SEVERE DEHYDRATION WITH SEVERE MALNUTRITION

Do **NOT** give IV fluids if possible.

Give ReSoMal which can be made (see below for recipe) or is commercially available. The ReSoMal rehydration fluid should be given orally or by nasogastric tube, much more slowly than you would when rehydrating a well-nourished child.

When assessing the blood sugar in a malnourished child, remember that a low blood sugar level is between 2 and 4 mmol/l. It is better to give 10% glucose (see Module 3) to a child whose sugar is borderline than to withhold it. As these children have no energy stores, they cannot, unlike well-nourished children, maintain their blood sugar in a crisis.

Table 11
ReSoMal Recipe

INGREDIENT	AMOUNT
Water	2
WHO-ORS	One-1L packet
Sucrose (household sugar)	50g
Electrolyte/mineral solution	40ml

Table 12
Treatment of severe dehydration

If the child has NO severe malnutrition	If the child HAS severe malnutrition
<p>Does the child have shock?</p> <p>If YES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See TREATMENT OF SHOCK (Table 3) in Module 3: Circulation <p>If NO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give Ringer's lactate For infants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30 ml/kg in the first hour - 70 ml/kg in the next 5 hours For children > 1 year of age: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30 ml/kg in the first 30 minutes - 70 ml/kg in the next 2.5 hours Assess the child every 1-2 hours <p>If the signs of dehydration are not improving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> give fluid more rapidly inform doctor or senior staff <p>As soon as the child can drink:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> give oral fluids in addition to the drip give ORS 5 ml/kg every hour 	<p>Does the child have shock?</p> <p>If YES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See TREATMENT OF SHOCK (Table 3) in Module 3: Circulation <p>If NO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not give IV fluids <p>For all children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give ReSoMal 5ml/kg every 30 minutes for the first 2 hours Then 5-10ml/kg/hour for the next 4-10 hours Give more ReSoMal if child wants more or large stool loss or vomiting Check blood glucose Treat if <3mmol/l (see Module 3) <p>For further treatment see inpatient guidelines</p>

For maintenance fluids see Table 13.

Table 13 Maintenance fluids	
If the child has NO severe malnutrition See Chart 11	If the child HAS severe malnutrition
<p>Give 70 ml/kg of Ringer's lactate solution (or, if not available, normal saline)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ over 5 hours in infants (aged <12 months); ■ over 2½ hours in children (aged 12 months to 5 years). <p>Reassess the child every 1-2 hours. If the condition is not improving, give the IV fluids more rapidly.</p> <p>Also give ORS solution (about 5 ml/kg/hour) as soon as the child can drink; this is usually:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ after 3-4 hours (in infants); ■ after 1-2 hours (in children). <p>Encourage breastfeeding:</p> <p>Reassess after 6 hours (infants) and after 3 hours (children)</p>	<p>Continue ReSoMal 5-10ml/kg/hour for the next 4-10 hours.</p> <p>See guidelines in the "Pocket book of hospital care for children" or the manual "Management of the child with a serious infection or severe malnutrition."</p>

If the child does not have diarrhoea or is not dehydrated, quickly continue the assessment for priority signs. If the child is dehydrated, you should initiate appropriate treatment, and then quickly resume the assessment

SUMMARY	<p>In a child with severe dehydration WITHOUT severe malnutrition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Treat shock if present ■ Give intravenous or nasogastric fluids ■ Start oral fluids as soon as possible. <p>In a child with severe dehydration WITH severe malnutrition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Treat shock if present ■ Give oral or nasogastric fluids.
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Assessment questions: Dehydration

Answer all the questions on this page, writing in the given spaces. If you have a problem, ask for help from one of the facilitators.

1. An abnormal skin pinch takes longer than _____ to go back.

2. An eight-month old weighing 6 kg is severely dehydrated. How much fluid would you give in the first hour? For how long would you give the second lot of fluid in the same child?

3. A three-year old weighing 15 kg is severely dehydrated. He has received 450 ml of fluid in 30 minutes. How much fluid are you going to give him next, and over what period of time?

4. If you cannot set up a drip, how much nasogastric fluid (ml/kg) should you give a child in an hour?

5. Barec is three-years old and weighs 15 kg. His mother said that his diarrhoea started yesterday. The health worker's assessment found that Barec was not in shock and that he was breathing adequately. He was lethargic and not able to drink, had sunken eyes and a skin pinch went back very slowly. He was not severely malnourished but had diarrhoea with severe dehydration. How should the health worker treat Barec's dehydration?

What amount of fluid should Barec be given initially?

6. Amaru is two-year old and weighs 8 kg. He is breathing comfortably and not in shock, but has diarrhoea. A health worker finds Amaru to be lethargic, but able to drink. His eyes are sunken, and a skin pinch goes back very slowly. The health worker decides that Amaru has diarrhoea with severe dehydration, then checks for severe malnutrition and sees visible severe wasting. What is the appropriate treatment for Amaru's dehydration?

7. Dano is eight months old and weighs 6 kg. He has had diarrhoea for a week and is very sick. He is breathing adequately and is not in shock. The health worker sees that Dano's eyes are sunken. When encouraged, Dano is able to take a sip of water, but drinks poorly. A skin pinch goes back very slowly. The health worker finds Dano has diarrhoea with severe dehydration. He is not severely malnourished. How much IV fluid should be given to Dano in the first hour?
Should the health worker give Dano ORS solution? If so, how much?

8. Sharita is nine months old and weighs 7 kg. Her mother brings her to the clinic because she has had diarrhoea for a week. The mother tells the health worker that Sharita is no longer breastfed, and is too tired to drink from a cup. The health worker assesses Sharita. He finds that she is breathing adequately. Her hands are cold and her pulse is weak and fast. He decides that she is in shock. She is lethargic, has sunken eyes, and a skin pinch goes back very slowly. The health worker decides Sharita has severe dehydration. She is not malnourished. What emergency treatment should the health worker give Sharita?

9. Rogit, an 18-month-old boy weighing 8 kg, is brought to the small hospital very late at night. The health worker assesses the boy and finds that he is alert and crying and not in shock. He can drink, but very poorly, and a skin pinch goes back very slowly. The health worker decides the child has diarrhoea with severe dehydration. He is not malnourished.

The child needs fluid for severe dehydration given according to Plan C, but the health worker is not trained to give IV therapy. The last nurse has left for the night and no other nurses will come in for several hours.

The health worker is trained to give nasogastric therapy and has ORS available. How should Rogit be rehydrated?

How much fluid should the health worker give initially?

10. A one-year old girl has a two-day history of diarrhoea and vomiting. Her weight is 6.5 kg. She is restless and irritable. Her airway and breathing are OK. Her hands are warm. AVPU=voice. Skin pinch lasts 4 seconds. Her eyes are sunken and the mother confirms this fact. She is skin and bones. How do you manage her?

Module Six

Case management scenarios

This module will give you an opportunity in different role plays all you have learned so far. You will work in a team and practice the skills of triage and emergency management. It gives you an opportunity to internalize the knowledge, and to ask questions about items which are not clear.

Implementing ETAT

When you complete this course, your work to implement ETAT will just begin. As we discussed in the first session, ETAT is the first component in the WHO referral care manual entitled “*Management of the Child with Serious Infection or Severe Malnutrition: Guidelines for care at the first-referral level in developing countries*”. Thus, depending upon your position, you may choose to implement ETAT as a single initiative or as the first component of an overall effort to improve the quality of care of seriously ill children in your hospital, including inpatient care of serious infections and severe malnutrition. Likewise, your hospital may choose to implement ETAT on its own, or it may become part of a multiple-hospital quality improvement collaboration to implement ETAT, or to improve the quality of care of hospitalized children, sharing experiences and results to rapidly learn the best way to successfully implement ETAT and decrease hospital mortality and morbidity of sick children.

Whatever your choice, one thing is clear – ETAT is not simply a matter of training, it will require that you and your colleagues change the system of care for children presenting with emergency conditions. Staff knowledge and skills are necessary but not sufficient for successful implementation of ETAT.

This chapter will help you prepare for implementation based on whichever choice is right for your hospital:

- Implementation of ETAT in one hospital alone or
- Implementation of ETAT in a multiple hospital collaborative effort
- Implementation of ETAT as a single component or
- Implementation of ETAT as the first component of a more comprehensive effort to improve the quality of care of hospitalized children with serious infections or severe malnutrition (improve care according to the guidelines)

Objectives of the chapter/session

By the end of this session on implementation of ETAT, you will be able to:

- Understand and explain the role of ETAT within the overall management of the child with serious infection or severe malnutrition
- Describe why both knowledge/skills and system changes (process improvement) are needed to successfully implement ETAT

- Make a plan to train key staff in ETAT (at one hospital or multiple sites regionally)
- Develop action plans to initiate the system changes (improvement process) needed to implement ETAT in his/her hospital
- Decide how to know that ETAT is successfully implemented in your hospital (or within a collaboration of hospitals implementing ETAT)
- Describe the value of working collaboratively across hospitals to improve the care of children with emergency conditions (and with serious infections or severe malnutrition)
- Describe and understand how ETAT training fits into wider context of improvement initiatives in place in your country which address the quality of care for children in hospital.

Implementing ETAT in your hospital

This consists of the following steps:

- Baseline assessment of current practices – focused on ETAT or as part of PHI assessment; select indicators for ongoing measurement of improvement
- Flow diagram of care – where are children with emergency conditions seen now?
- Statistics of care – hospital under 5 five death rates overall and by condition, within first 24 hours of admission; on ward after 24 hours
- Identify the staff involved in ETAT and your ETAT improvement team
- Skills and knowledge development – plan how to transfer ETAT training from TOT course to your onsite staff
- Use results of assessment to identify key changes you need to make to implement ETAT guidelines.

Implementation of ETAT is in the first place a matter of management and decision-making. Cost and benefits are most important aspects of the decision making process. You can assist managers in this process by providing information.

- Why?** What arguments can you give to decision-makers to implement ETAT in your working place? (advocacy)
- Who?** What staff categories should be involved in ETAT?
- Where?** Where should it take place?
- When?** When should it be done? (Patient flow and tasks)
- What?** What extra equipment and suppliers are needed, which are not yet available now? (material resources)

Advocacy

Consider preventable death, death within 24 hours after admission, delay in treatment waiting, time doctor's delay, ethics, professional standards, human suffering. Brainstorm on the importance of these factors in your working situation. List your arguments in a convincing form.

Patient flow and tasks

It can be helpful to draw a floor map of the emergency and/or paediatric departments. Where are the largest members of patients waiting? Is it possible to involve ancillary staff in emergency assessment (gate keepers, watchmen, clerks)?

Is it feasible to allocate space for emergency management near the waiting room?

Material Resources

Annex 2 contains a list of requirements for ETAT (equipment and supplies). Check if each of the items is available in the hospital and in the emergency department. List the items not available.

Prepare a summary of your findings in the form of recommendations to the hospital superintendent or the hospital management board.

Developing individual plans of actions

- Plan framework

Table 14																	
Suggested table																	
Objectives	Activities	Time Frame												Requirements	Cost	Responsible persons	Source of funds
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D				

Practical procedures

Giving Parenteral fluids

VASCULAR ACCESS

Select a suitable vein to place the cannula (22 or 24 gauge) or butterfly needle (gauge 21 or 23). Suitable sites are shown in Figure 33.

PERIPHERAL VEIN

Identify an accessible peripheral vein. In young children aged >2 months, this is usually the cephalic vein in the antecubital fossa or the fourth interdigital vein on the back of the hand.

- An assistant should keep the position of the limb steady and should act as a tourniquet by obstructing the venous return with his fingers lightly closed around the limb. Alternatively, use a rubber glove or tubing as a tourniquet.
- Clean the surrounding skin with an antiseptic solution (such as spirit, iodine, isopropyl alcohol, or 70% alcohol solution), then introduce the cannula into the vein and insert most of its length. Fix the cannula securely with tape. Apply a splint with the limb in an appropriate position (e.g. elbow extended, wrist slightly flexed).

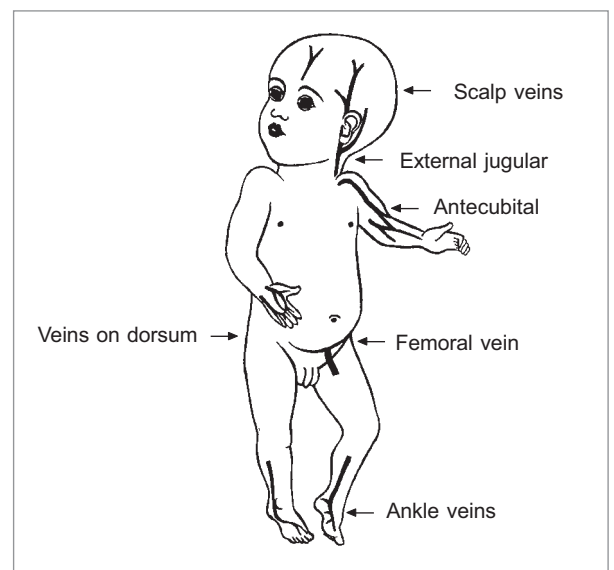


Figure 33
Sites for IV access in infants and children

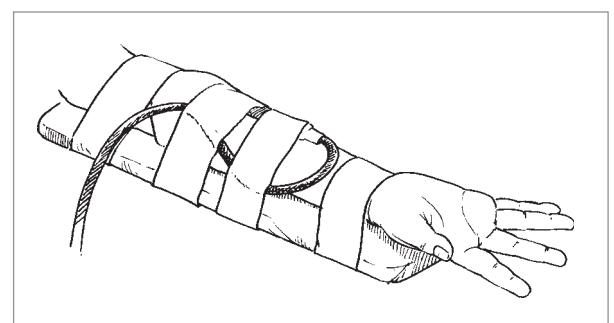


Figure 34
Splinted arm for IV infusion

SCALP VEINS

These are often used in children aged <2 years but work best in young infants. The frontal superficial, temporal posterior, auricular, supra-orbital and posterior facial veins can be used. Scalp vein infusions have the advantage of not greatly restricting the child's movements.

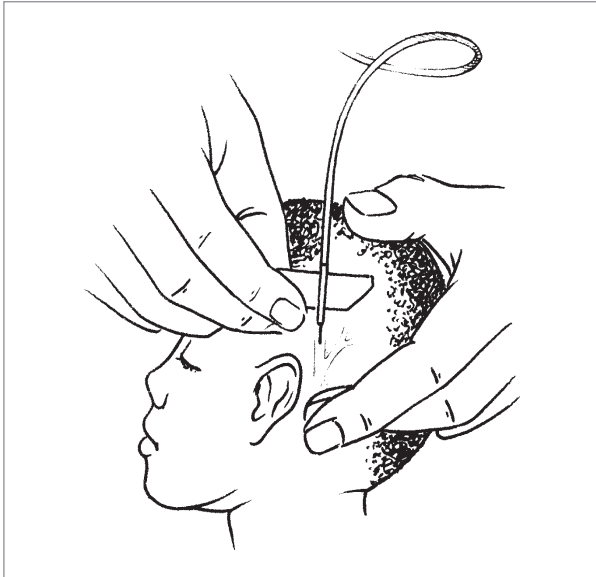


Figure 35
Inserting a butterfly needle in a scalp vein

- Find a suitable scalp vein (usually in the midline of the forehead, the temporal area, or above or behind the ear).
- Shave the area and clean the skin with an antiseptic solution. The assistant should occlude the vein proximal to the site of puncture. Fill the butterfly set tubing with saline either by attaching it to the infusion-giving set and then disconnecting it or by flushing the butterfly set. Disconnect the syringe and leave the end of the tubing open. Introduce the butterfly needle as described above. Blood flowing back slowly through the tubing indicates that the needle is in the vein.
- Use adhesive plaster and a gauze pad under the needle to secure the needle at an angle to the scalp. Care should be taken not to cannulate an artery, which is recognized by palpation. If there should be a pulsatile spurt of blood, withdraw the needle and apply pressure until the bleeding stops; then look for a vein.

CARE OF THE CANNULA

Secure the cannula when introduced. This may require the splinting of neighbouring joints to limit the movement of the cannula. Keep the overlying skin clean and dry. Clean it daily with an antiseptic solution.

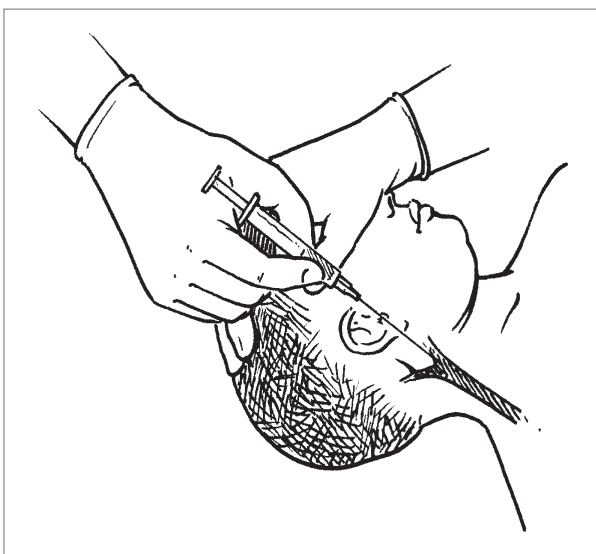


Figure 36
Inserting a cannula into the external jugular vein

To minimize the risk of infection, the cannula should not be kept in the same site for longer than necessary, and should be removed if complications develop.

EXTERNAL JUGULAR VEIN

- Hold the child securely, with the head turned to one side away from the puncture site and slightly lower than the body (15-30 degree head-down position). (The vein will fill in this position and should be visible as it travels towards the clavicle in the supraclavicular fossa). Restrain the child as necessary in this position.

INTRAOSSEOUS NEEDLE INSERTION

When carried out by a well-trained and experienced health worker, intraosseous infusion is a simple and reliable method of giving fluid and drugs in an emergency. The method is safe if the needle is left in place no longer than 6-8 hours. All parenteral fluids and drugs recommended in these guidelines can be given by this route.

In an emergency this may be the first choice if access to a peripheral vein does not appear to be obtainable. It takes 1-2 minutes to establish intraosseous access. The procedure is painful, but no anaesthetic is required as it should only be used in an emergency (e.g. when a child is in shock).

Contra-indications:

- Infection at the intended puncture site
- Fracture of the bone (relative contraindication, not for shock, only for dehydration).

The first choice for the puncture is the proximal tibia. The site for needle insertion is in antero-medial surface of the tibia, 1-2 cm below the tibial tuberosity (2 finger breadths in children, 1 finger breadths in infants). An alternative site for needle insertion is the distal femur, 2 cm above the lateral condyle.

- Prepare the necessary equipment:
 - Bone marrow aspiration or intraosseous needles (15-18 gauge or, if not available, 21 gauge; if no special needles are available, large-bore (21 FG) hypodermic or butterfly needles can be used in young children)
 - Antiseptic solution and sterile gauze to clean the site
 - A sterile 5-ml syringe filled with normal saline
 - A second sterile 5-ml syringe filled with normal saline
 - IV infusion equipment
 - Sterile gloves.
- Select the site for cannulation:
 - First, palpate the tibial tuberosity
 - Then, locate one finger's breadth below and medial to the tuberosity (the bone can be felt under the skin at this site).
- Wash the hands and put on sterile gloves.
- Clean the skin over and surrounding the site with an antiseptic solution.
- Stabilize the proximal tibia with the left hand (this hand is now not sterile) by grasping the thigh and knee above and lateral to the cannulation site, with the fingers and thumb wrapped around the knee but not directly behind the insertion site.
- Palpate the landmarks again with the sterile glove (right hand).
- Insert the needle at a 90° angle to the bone with the bevel pointing towards the foot. Advance the needle using a gentle but firm, twisting or drilling motion.
- Stop advancing the needle when you feel a sudden decrease in resistance. The needle should be fixed in the bone.

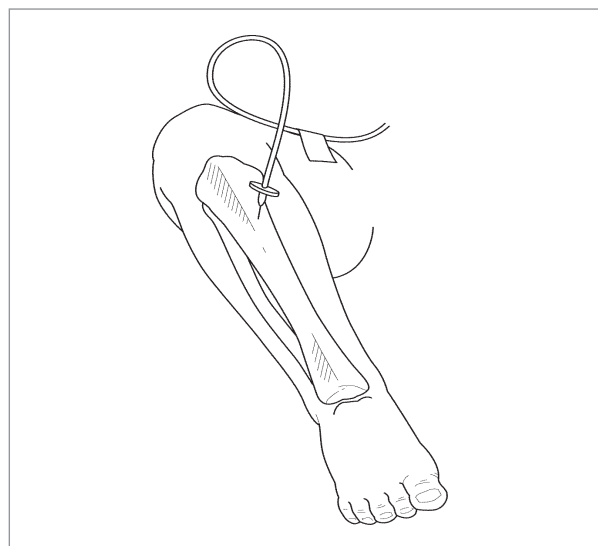


Figure 37

Intraosseous infusion. Infusion needle in place in the proximal medial part of the tibia

- Remove the stylet if present.
- Aspirate 1 ml of the marrow contents (looks like blood), using the 5 ml syringe, to confirm that the needle is in the marrow cavity.
- Flush the needle with 5 ml of infusion solution
- The fluid infusion can be started.

Note: While the fluid is being infused, only a slight resistance should be felt, and there should be no visible or palpable infiltration in the area of infusion. Failure to aspirate marrow contents does not mean that the needle is not correctly placed.

- Apply dressings and secure the needle in its place.
- Monitor the infusion by the ease with which the fluid flows and by the clinical response of the patient.
- Check that the calf does not swell during the infusion and the toes remain pink.
- If the child cries inconsolably, check the toes and calf.
- Consider starting the child on antibiotics for five days if not already started.

Stop the intraosseous infusion as soon as venous access is available. In any case, it should not continue for more than 8 hours.

Complications include:

- Incomplete penetration of the bony cortex
Signs: The needle is not well fixed; infiltration occurs under the skin
Action: The needle must be pushed in further into the bone.
- Penetration of the posterior bone cortex (more common)
Sign: Infiltration occurs (calf becomes tense), with the needle well fixed
Action: Remove the needle and repeat at another site.
- Blockage of the needle by marrow (uncommon)
Sign: Infusion stops
Action: The line must be flushed by 5 ml of normal saline.
- Infection
Signs: Cellulitis at the site of the infusion (this is rare if the infusion is left for less than 8 hours; osteomyelitis is rare)
Action: Remove the intraosseous needle unless it is essential; give local skin care and antibiotic treatment.
Consider giving antibiotics.
- Necrosis and sloughing of the skin at the site of the infusion (this occurs particularly when drugs such as adrenaline, calcium chloride or sodium bicarbonate pass into the tissues).
Action: Avoid by infusing gently and not under pressure.

IV DRUG ADMINISTRATION THROUGH AN INDWELLING CANNULA

Attach the syringe containing the IV drug to the injection port of the cannula and introduce the drug. Once all the drug has been given, inject 0.5 ml heparin solution (10-100 units/ml) into the cannula unit until all the blood has been expelled and the catheter is filled with the solution.

If heparin is not available, normal saline or 5% glucose solution can be used, but the risk of clot formation in the cannula is higher.

Insertion of a nasogastric tube

A nasogastric tube (size 8 French gauge for children) for fluids or food may have to be passed into the child's stomach, e.g. to feed a severely malnourished child who is anorexic, or to give fluids (e.g. glucose) to an unconscious child.

Holding the tip of the tube against the child's nose, measure the distance from the nose to the ear lobe, then to the xiphisternum (epigastrium). Mark the tube at this point.

Hold the child firmly. Lubricate the tip of the catheter with water and pass it directly into one nostril, pushing it slowly in. It should pass easily down into the stomach without resistance. When the measured distance is reached, fix the tube with tape at the nose.

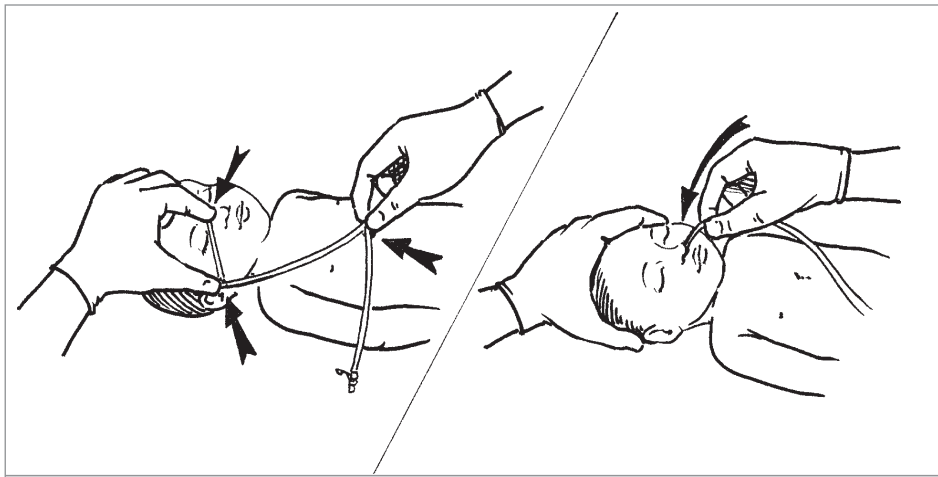


Figure 38

Inserting a nasogastric tube. The distance is measured from the nose to the ear and then to the epigastrium, and then the tube is inserted to the measured distance

Aspirate a small amount of stomach contents with a syringe to confirm that the tube is in place (check that it turns blue litmus paper pink). If no aspirate is obtained, inject air down the tube and listen over the abdomen with a stethoscope (note, however, that the latter method can lead to errors if not carried out carefully). If the tube is in the stomach, air can be heard entering the stomach.

If the tube is not in the stomach, any aspirate obtained will not turn blue litmus paper pink and the sound of injected air will not be heard over the abdomen. If there is any doubt about the location of the tube, withdraw it and start again. The major complication is when the tube inadvertently passes into the trachea. This leads to distress in the child, an abnormal cry in infants, or cyanosis. If this happens, remove the tube immediately and try again to pass it into the stomach after the child has recovered.

- When the tube is in place, fix a 20 ml syringe (without the plunger) to the end of the tube, and pour food or fluid into the syringe, allowing it to flow by gravity.

The nasogastric tube can be left in position for several days. If there is doubt about the position of the tube, check that it is correctly in place before giving the feed.

Obstruction of nasal breathing can cause distress in some young infants. If oxygen therapy is to be given by nasopharyngeal catheter at the same time, pass both tubes down the same nostril and try to keep the other nostril patent by wiping away crusts and secretions.

Resources required to implement emergency care of children in hospitals

The following list gives you equipment which is needed to implement emergency care in your emergency or outpatient department, and to train staff in performing the emergency management. After training, you should have these items available in the emergency area of the outpatient department as well as in the ward. While you are checking for its availability, find out whether it is available elsewhere in the hospital, and you can make it available where you need it. Therefore, there is another column provided which is labeled “hospital” in the check list.

Equipment	Emergency department	Paediatric ward	Hospital
Infant sized doll			
Child sized doll			
Oropharyngeal (Guedel) Airways: at least 3 different sizes			
Self-inflating bags: adult			
Self-inflating bags: children			
Masks: 3 sizes for children			
Electric (or foot) suction pump			
Suction catheters: size 15 F.G.			
Oxygen concentrator or oxygen cylinder with regulator, pressure gauge and flow meter			
Oxygen tubing, nasal prongs or catheters			
Sandbags			
Blankets			

	Emergency department	Paediatric ward	Hospital
Consumables			
Adhesive tape, at least 2 different sizes			
Cotton wool			
Cardboard to make splints			
IV Infusion sets			
Scalp vein needles (size 21 or 23 G)			
IV Cannulae (size 22 or 24 G)			
Needles for intraosseous insertion (size 21G)			
Tuberculin syringes			
Test strips and scale for blood sugar			
Fluids and drugs			
Ringer's lactate or normal saline			
Half-strength Darrow's with 5% glucose solution, or half-normal saline with 5% glucose solution			
Glucose 10% or 50% glucose			
ORS			
ReSoMal (commercially bought or prepared)			
Diazepam IV or paraldehyde			

After you have checked for the availability, list requirements here in order of priority.

Equipment	Consumables
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.
7.	7.
8.	8.
9.	9.
10.	10.

Annex Three

ETAT charts

CHART 2. Triage of all sick children¹

EMERGENCY SIGNS

If any sign positive: give treatment(s), call for help, draw blood for emergency laboratory investigations (glucose, malaria smear, Hb)

ASSESS

1. Airway and breathing

- Obstructed breathing, or
- Central cyanosis, or
- Severe respiratory distress

ANY SIGN
POSITIVE

2. Circulation

Cold hands with:

- Capillary refill longer than 3 seconds, and
- Weak and fast pulse

ANY SIGN
POSITIVE

Check for
severe
malnutrition

TREAT

Do not move neck if cervical spine injury possible

If foreign body aspiration

- Manage airway in choking child (Chart 3)

If no foreign body aspiration

- Manage airway (Chart 4)
- Give oxygen (Chart 5)
- Make sure child is warm

- Stop any bleeding
- Give oxygen (Chart 5)
- Make sure child is warm

If no severe malnutrition:

- Insert IV and begin giving fluids rapidly (Chart 7). If not able to insert peripheral IV, insert an external jugular or intraosseous line

If severe malnutrition:

If lethargic or unconscious:

- Give IV glucose (Chart 10)
- Insert IV line and give fluids (Chart 8)

If not lethargic or unconscious:

- Give glucose orally or by NG tube
- Proceed immediately to full assessment and treatment

¹ The numbering of charts in this course starts with Chart 2, in line of the numbering of charts in the "Pocket book of hospital care for children" or the manual "Management of the child with a serious infection or severe malnutrition."

CHART 2. Triage of all sick children (continued)

EMERGENCY SIGNS

If any sign positive: give treatment(s), call for help, draw blood for emergency laboratory investigations (glucose, malaria smear, Hb)

ASSESS

3. Coma/convulsing

- Coma
or
- Convulsing (now)

IF COMA OR
CONVULSING

4. Severe dehydration

(only in child with diarrhoea)
Diarrhoea plus any two of these:

- Lethargy
- Sunken eyes
- Very slow skin pinch

DIARRHOEA
plus TWO
SIGNS
POSITIVE

Check for
severe
malnutrition

TREAT

Do not move neck if cervical spine injury possible

- Manage airway (Chart 4)
- If convulsing, give diazepam or paraldehyde rectally (Chart 9)
- Position the unconscious child (if head or neck trauma is suspected, stabilize the neck first) (Chart 6)
- Give IV glucose (Chart 10)

- Make sure child is warm.

If no severe malnutrition:

- Insert IV line and begin giving fluids rapidly and Diarrhoea Treatment Plan C in hospital

If severe malnutrition:

- Do not insert IV
- Proceed immediately to full assessment and treatment

PRIORITY SIGNS

These children need prompt assessment and treatment

- Tiny baby (<2 months)
- Temperature very high
- Trauma or other urgent surgical condition
- Pallor (severe)
- Poisoning (history of)
- Pain (severe)
- Respiratory distress
- Restless, continuously irritable, or lethargic
- Referral (urgent)
- Malnutrition: Visible severe wasting
- Oedema of both feet
- Burns (major)

Note: If a child has trauma or other surgical problems, get surgical help or follow surgical guidelines

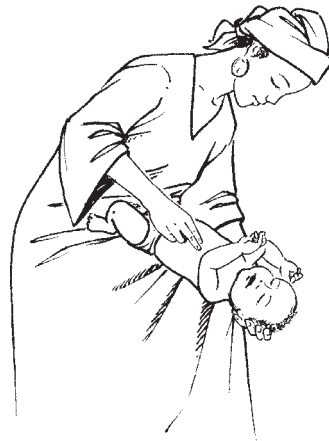
NON-URGENT

Proceed with assessment and further treatment according to the child's priority

CHART 3. How to manage a choking child

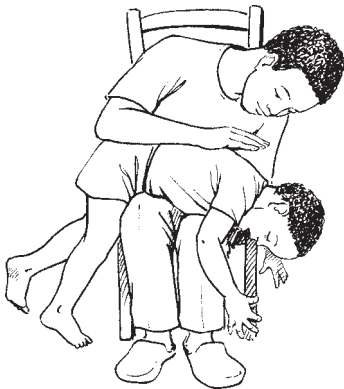


Back slaps



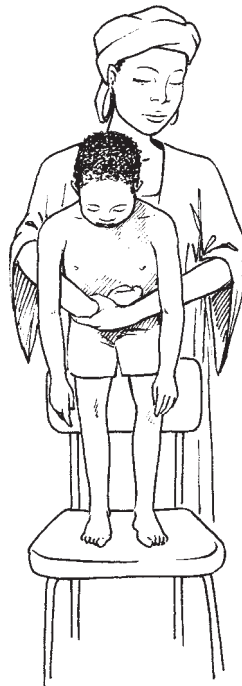
Chest thrusts

- Lay the infant on your arm or thigh in a head down position
- Give 5 blows to the infant's back with heel of hand
- If obstruction persists, turn infant over and give 5 chest thrusts with 2 fingers, one finger breadth below nipple level in midline (see diagram)
- If obstruction persists, check infant's mouth for any obstruction which can be removed
- If necessary, repeat sequence with back slaps again



Slapping the back to clear airway obstruction in a choking child

- Give 5 blows to the child's back with heel of hand with child sitting, kneeling or lying
- If the obstruction persists, go behind the child and pass your arms around the child's body; form a fist with one hand immediately below the child's sternum; place the other hand over the fist and pull upwards into the abdomen (see diagram); repeat this Heimlich manoeuvre 5 times
- If the obstruction persists, check the child's mouth for any obstruction which can be removed
- If necessary, repeat this sequence with back slaps again



Heimlich manoeuvre in a choking older child

CHART 4. How to manage the airway in a child with obstructed breathing (or who has just stopped breathing)

NO NECK TRAUMA IS SUSPECTED



Neutral position to open the airway in an infant



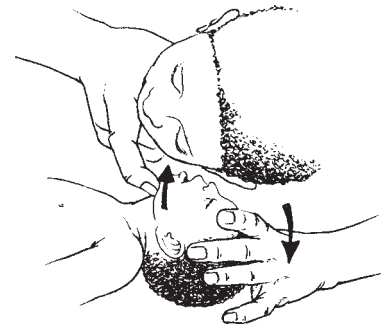
Sniffing position to open the airway in an older child

Child conscious

- Inspect mouth and remove foreign body, if present
- Clear secretions from throat
- Let child assume position of maximal comfort

Child unconscious

- Tilt the head as shown
- Inspect mouth and remove foreign body, if present
- Clear secretions from throat
- Check the airway by looking for chest movements, listening for breath sounds and feeling for breath
- Follow guidelines in Chart 6



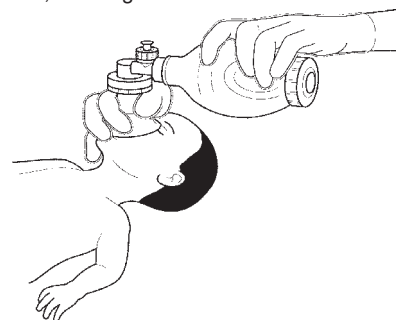
Look, listen and feel for breathing

NECK TRAUMA OR POSSIBLE CERVICAL SPINE INJURY IS SUSPECTED

- Stabilize the neck, as shown in Chart 6
- Inspect mouth and remove foreign body, if present
- Clear secretions from throat
- Check the airway by looking for chest movements, listening for breath sounds, and feeling for breath



Use jaw thrust without head tilt. Place the 4th and 5th finger behind the angle of the jaw and move it upwards so that the bottom of the jaw is thrust forwards, at 90° to the body



If the child is still not breathing after carrying out the above, ventilate with bag and mask

CHART 5. How to give oxygen**Give oxygen through nasal prongs or a nasal catheter****Nasal Prongs**

- Place the prongs just inside the nostrils and secure with tape

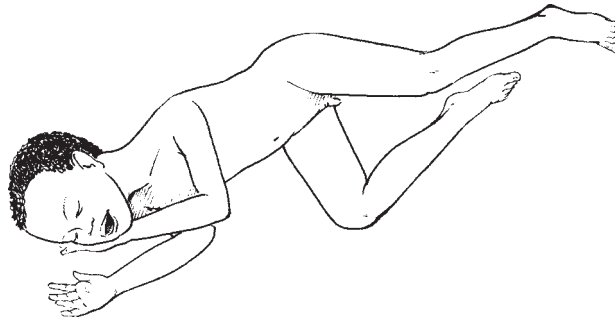
**Nasal Prongs****Nasal Catheter**

- Use an 8 FG size tube
- Measure the distance from the side of the nostril to the inner eyebrow margin with the catheter
- Insert the catheter to this depth
- Secure with tape

**Nasal Catheter**

Start oxygen flow at 1-2 litres/minute

CHART 6. How to position the unconscious child



If neck trauma is not suspected:

- Turn the child on the side to reduce risk of aspiration
- Keep the neck slightly extended and stabilize by placing cheek on one hand
- Bend one leg to stabilize the body position

If neck trauma is suspected:

- Stabilize the child's neck and keep the child lying on the back
- Tape the child's forehead to the sides of a firm board to secure this position
- Prevent the neck from moving by supporting the child's head (e.g. using litre bags of IV fluid on each side)
- If vomiting, turn on the side, keeping the head in line with the body

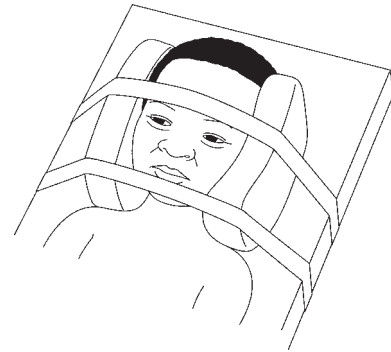


CHART 7. How to give IV fluids rapidly for shock in a child without severe malnutrition

- If the child is severely malnourished the fluid volume and rate are different, so check that the child is not severely malnourished
Shock in child without severe malnutrition — Chart 8
Shock in child with severe malnutrition — Chart 9
- Insert an intravenous line (and draw blood for emergency laboratory investigations)
- Attach Ringer's lactate or normal saline—make sure the infusion is running well
- Infuse 20 ml/kg as rapidly as possible

Age/weight	Volume of Ringer's lactate or normal saline solution (20 ml/kg)
2 months (<4 kg)	75 ml
2–<4 months (4–<6 kg)	100 ml
4–<12 months (6–<10 kg)	150 ml
1–<3 years (10–<14 kg)	250 ml
3–<5 years (14–19 kg)	350 ml

Reassess child after appropriate volume has run in

Reassess after first infusion:	If no improvement, repeat 20 ml/kg as rapidly as possible
Reassess after second infusion:	If no improvement, repeat 20 ml/kg as rapidly as possible
Reassess after third infusion:	If no improvement, give blood 20 ml/kg over 30 minutes, unless the child has profuse diarrhoea
Reassess after fourth infusion:	If no improvement, see disease specific treatment guidelines. You should have established a provisional diagnosis by now.

After improvement at any stage (pulse slows, faster capillary refill), go to Chart 11.

CHART 8. How to give IV fluids for shock in a child with severe malnutrition

Give this treatment only if the child has signs of shock **and is lethargic or has lost consciousness**:

- Insert an IV line (and draw blood for emergency laboratory investigations)
- Weigh the child (or estimate the weight) to calculate the volume of fluid to be given
- Give IV fluid 15 ml/kg over 1 hour. Use one of the following solutions (in order of preference) according to availability:
 - Ringer's lactate with 5% glucose (dextrose); or
 - half-normal saline with 5% glucose (dextrose); or
 - half-strength Darrow's solution with 5% glucose (dextrose); or, if these are unavailable,
 - Ringer's lactate.

Weight	Volume IV fluid Give over 1 hour (15 ml/kg)	Weight	Volume IV fluid Give over 1 hour (15 ml/kg)
4 kg	60 ml	12 kg	180 ml
6 kg	90 ml	14 kg	210 ml
8 kg	120 ml	16 kg	240 ml
10 kg	150 ml	18 kg	270 ml

- Measure the pulse and breathing rate at the start and every 5-10 minutes.

If there are signs of improvement:

- give repeat IV 15 ml/kg over 1 hour; then
- switch to oral or nasogastric rehydration with ReSoMal, 10 ml/kg/h up to 10 hours; then
- initiate refeeding with starter F-75.

If the child fails to improve after the first 15ml/kg IV, assume the child has septic shock:

- give maintenance IV fluid (4 ml/kg/h) while waiting for blood;
- when blood is available, transfuse fresh whole blood at 10 ml/kg slowly over 3 hours (use packed cells if in cardiac failure); then
- initiate refeeding with starter F-75 .
- start antibiotic treatment.

If the child deteriorates during the IV rehydration (breathing increases by 5 breaths/min or pulse by 15 beats/min), stop the infusion because IV fluid can worsen the child's condition.

CHART 9. How to give diazepam (or paraldehyde) rectally

Give diazepam rectally:

- Draw up the dose from an ampoule of diazepam into a tuberculin (1 ml) syringe. Base the dose on the weight of the child, where possible. Then remove the needle.
- Insert the syringe into the rectum 4 to 5 cm and inject the diazepam solution.
- Hold buttocks together for a few minutes.

Age/weight	Diazepam given rectally 10 mg/2ml solution	Paraldehyde given rectally
	Dose 0.1ml/kg	Dose 0.3-0.4 ml/kg
2 weeks to 2 months (< 4 kg)*	0.3 ml (1.5 mg)	1.0 ml
2-<4 months (4-<6 kg)	0.5 ml (2.5 mg)	1.6 ml
4-<12 months (6--<10 kg)	1.0 ml (5 mg)	2.4 ml
1-<3 years (10-<14 kg)	1.25 ml (6.25 mg)	4 ml
3-<5 years (14-19 kg)	1.5 ml (7.5 mg)	5 ml

If convulsion continues after 10 minutes, give a second dose of diazepam rectally (or give diazepam intravenously (0.05 ml/kg) if IV infusion is running).

If convulsion continues after another 10 minutes, give a third dose of diazepam or give paraldehyde rectally (or phenobarbital IV or IM 15 mg/kg).

If high fever:

- Sponge the child with room-temperature water to reduce the fever.
- Do not give oral medication until the convulsion has been controlled (danger of aspiration).

* Use phenobarbital (200 mg/ml solution) in a dose of 20 mg/kg to control convulsions in infants <2 weeks of age:

Weight 2 kg-initial dose: 0.2 ml, repeat 0.1 ml after 30 minutes] If convulsions continue
Weight 3 kg-initial dose: 0.3 ml, repeat 0.15 ml after 30 minutes	

CHART 10. How to give IV glucose

- Insert IV line and draw blood rapidly for emergency laboratory investigations
- Check blood glucose. If low (<2.5 mmol/litre (45 mg/dl) in a well nourished or <3 mmol/litre (55 mg/dl) in a severely malnourished child) or if dextrostix is not available:
- Give 5 ml/kg of 10% glucose solution rapidly by IV injection

Age/weight	Volume of 10% glucose solution to give as bolus (5 ml/kg)
Less than 2 months (<4 kg)	15 ml
2–<4 months (4–<6 kg)	25 ml
4–<12 months (6–<10 kg)	40 ml
1–<3 years (10–<14 kg)	60 ml
3–<5 years (14–19 kg)	80 ml

- Recheck the blood glucose in 30 minutes. If it is still low, repeat 5 ml/kg of 10% glucose solution.
- Feed the child as soon as conscious.

If not able to feed without danger of aspiration, give:

- milk or sugar solution via nasogastric tube (to make sugar solution, dissolve 4 level teaspoons of sugar (20 grams) in a 200-ml cup of clean water), or
- IV containing 5-10% glucose (dextrose)

Note: 50% glucose solution is the same as 50% dextrose solution or D50. If only 50% glucose solution is available: dilute 1 part 50% glucose solution to 4 parts sterile water, or dilute 1 part 50% glucose solution to 9 parts 5% glucose solution.

Note: For reliable results, take great care with the dextrostix test. The strip must be stored in its box, at 2-3 °C, avoiding sunlight or high humidity. A drop of blood should be placed on the strip (it is necessary to cover all the reagent area). After 60 seconds, the blood should be washed off gently with drops of cold water and the colour compared with the key on the bottle or on the blood glucose reader. (The exact procedure will vary with different strips.)

CHART 11. How to treat severe dehydration in an emergency setting

For children with severe dehydration but without shock, refer to Table 12, page 47.

If the child is in shock, first follow the instructions in Charts 7 and 8. Switch to the present chart when the child's pulse becomes slower or the capillary refill is faster.

Give 70 ml/kg of Ringer's lactate solution (or, if not available, normal saline) over 5 hours in infants (aged <12 months) and over 2½ hours in children (aged 12 months to 5 years).

Weight	Total volume IV fluid (volume per hour)	
	Age <12 months Give over 5 hours	Age 12 months to 5 years Give over 2.5 hours
<4 kg	200 ml (40 ml/h)	-
4-6 kg	350 ml (70 ml/h)	-
6-10 kg	550 ml (110 ml/h)	550 ml (220 ml/h)
10-14 kg	850 ml (170 ml/h)	850 ml (340 ml/h)
14-19 kg	1200 ml (240 ml/h)	1200 ml (480 ml/h)

Reassess the child every 1-2 hours. If the hydration status is not improving, give the IV drip more rapidly.

Also give ORS solution (about 5 ml/kg/hour) as soon as the child can drink; this is usually after 3-4 hours (in infants) or 1-2 hours (in children).

Weight	Volume of ORS solution per hour
<4 kg	15 ml
4-6 kg	25 ml
6-10 kg	40 ml
10-14 kg	60 ml
14-19 kg	85 ml

Reassess after 6 hours (infants) and after 3 hours (children). Classify dehydration. Then choose the appropriate plan (A, B, or C) to continue treatment.

If possible, observe the child for at least 6 hours after rehydration to be sure that the mother can maintain hydration by giving the child ORS solution by mouth.

