DOES THE YOUNG INFANT HAVE DIARRHOEA?

ASK	LOOK, LISTEN, FEEL

• For how long?
• Is there blood in the stool?
	• Look at the young infant's general condition. Is the infant:
	  • Lethargic or unconscious?
	  • Restless and irritable?
	• Look for sunken eyes
	• Pinch the skin of the abdomen. Does it go back:
	  • Very slowly (> 2 seconds)?
	  • Slowly?

	A YOUNG INFANT HAS DIARRHOEA IF THE STOOLS HAVE CHANGED FROM THE USUAL PATTERN, AND ARE MANY AND WATERY (MORE WATER THAN FAECAL MATTER)

CLASSIFY DIARRHOEA

	Two of the following signs:		
FOR DEHYDRATION	• Lethargic or unconscious • Sunken eyes • Skin pinch goes back very slowly • Young infant less than one month of age	SEVERE DEHYDRATION	• **Start intravenous infusion (Plan C, p. 43)** • **Give first dose of ceftriaxone IM (p. 12)** • **Breastfeed or give frequent sips of ORS if possible** • **Keep the infant warm on the way to hospital (p. 11)** • **Refer URGENTLY**
	• Restless, irritable • Sunken eyes • Skin pinch goes back slowly	SOME DEHYDRATION	• If other severe classification, refer with breastfeeding or ORS sips on the way • Give fluid for some dehydration Plan B (p. 42) • Advise mother to continue breastfeeding • Give zinc for 14 days (p. 41) • Follow-up in 2 days (p. 15) • Counsel the caregiver on home care for the young infant (p. 14)
	• Not enough signs to classify as some or severe dehydration	NO VISIBLE DEHYDRATION	• Give fluids to treat for diarrhoea at Home (Plan A p. 42) • If exclusively breastfed, do not give other fluids except SSS • Give zinc for 14 days (p. 41) • Counsel the caregiver on home care for the young infant (p. 14) • Follow-up in 2 days (p. 15)
AND DIARRHOEA 14 DAYS OR MORE	• Diarrhoea lasting 14 days or more	SEVERE PERSISTENT DIARRHOEA	• **Start treatment for dehydration if present** • **Refer urgently** • **Keep the infant warm on the way to hospital (p. 11)**
AND IF BLOOD IN STOOL	• Blood in the stool	SERIOUS ABDOMINAL PROBLEM	• **Refer URGENTLY** • **Keep the infant warm on the way to hospital (p. 11)**