

## STANDARD TREATMENT WORKFLOW (STW)

# Severe Acute Malnutrition with Complications

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### CITATION

Awasthi S, Kabra S, Mohan N, Kini P, Sharma S, Mathew J, Singh S, Singh K, Chaturvedi H, Bhatnagar S. Severe Acute Malnutrition with Complications. Journal of the Epidemiology Foundation of India. 2024;2(1Suppl):S11-S12. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.56450/JEFI.2024.v2i1Suppl.006>

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October / 2024

Department of Health Research  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

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### Standard Treatment Workflow (STW) for the Management of SEVERE ACUTE MALNUTRITION WITH COMPLICATIONS ICD-10-E43

**WHEN TO SUSPECT?**

- COMMON PRESENTATION**
  - Faulty feeding
    - Not exclusively breastfed for 6 months
    - Bottle feeding
    - Delayed/Inadequate complementary feeding
  - Poor appetite
  - Not gaining weight
  - Lethargic
  - Disinterested in surroundings
  - Delayed development
- Additional symptoms of complications**
  - Loose motions
  - Jaundice
  - Seizures
- Inter-current infections:**
  - Pneumonia
  - Diarrhea
  - Sepsis
  - Skin infections
  - Severe dehydration
  - Untreated tuberculosis
  - HIV
  - Social challenges

**DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA FOR SAM & MAM**

- 0-6 months**
  - Consider SAM if MUAC <11.0 cm
- 6-59 months**
  - Consider SAM if MUAC <11.5 cm or WHZ <-3 SD or bilateral pitting oedema
  - Consider MAM if MUAC is between 11.5- 12.4 cm or WHZ is between -2 to -3 SD
- >5 years**
  - Consider SAM if BMI ≤ 3SD (severe thinness)
  - Consider MAM if BMI ≤ 2 SD (thinness)

**EXAMINE FOR**

- Vital signs; PR, RR, CRT
- Lethargy/ irritability
- Loss of subcutaneous fat
- Muscle wasting
- Pallor
- Signs of Vitamin B, K and A deficiencies
- Respiratory distress
- Dehydration

**TRIAGE**

- SAM + GOOD APPETITE + NO MEDICAL COMPLICATION**  
Home based treatment + oral amoxicillin 50 mg/kg/dose twice a day for 7-10 days
- SAM + COMPLICATIONS/ POOR APPETITE/ FAILED HOME TREATMENT**  
Hospitalize

**INVESTIGATIONS**

ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	OPTIONAL
Hemogram, RBS, LFT, KFT, Chest X-Ray, RDT-HIV, Gastric aspirate for CBNAAT/AFB	ECC, Stool pH, Stool microscopic, Urine culture, Serum electrolytes (Na, K, Ca), Serum B12, Serum Folate levels	Blood Culture, Blood gases, Ultrasound (inferior vena cava to ascending aorta ratio)

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**TREATMENT**

**A. STABILISATION PHASE:** Monitor vitals, urine frequency, stool/vomitus volumes  
**INTAKE:** IVF (DNS) 4 ml/kg/hr for 2-3 days with early/concomitant initiation of oral feeds (130 ml/kg/day)

CONDITION	PLACE OF TREATMENT	TREATMENT
<b>INFECTIONS</b> (empirically)	Facilities for supportive monitoring, investigations and IVF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inj., Ampicillin - 50 mg/kg/iv or im X 6hrly Plus inj. Gentamicin- 7.5 mg/kg iv or im, OD for 7-10 days</li> <li>If no response within 48 hrs or critically ill give inj. Ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg, OD for 7-10 days</li> <li>When accepting orally, switch to oral amoxicillin 40-45 mg/kg/dose twice a day for 7 days</li> <li>If prolonged diarrhea (&gt;7 days) Metronidazole 10-12 mg/kg, 8 hrly for 7-10 days (inj, ectable or oral)</li> </ul>
<b>HYPOGLYCEMIA</b> (RBS <54mg/dL)	Facilities for supportive monitoring, investigations and IVF	Conscious: 50 ml of 10% Dextrose or 1 tsf sugar in 3 tsf water orally
	Transfer to intensive care facility to manage shock	Unconscious: 5 ml/kg of 10% Dextrose IV NO IMPROVEMENT treat as shock
<b>HYPOTHERMIA</b> (<35.5 °C or 96 °F)	Facilities for supportive monitoring, investigations and IVF. Plus warmer	Skin to skin care with mother (infants) Warming under warmer, Incandescent lamp or warmer
	Intensive care facility to manage shock	NO IMPROVEMENT treat as shock
<b>SEVERE DEHYDRATION</b>	Facilities for supportive monitoring, investigations and IVF	Conscious: 50 ml of 10% Dextrose or 1 tsf sugar in 3 tsf water orally
	Transfer to intensive care facility to manage shock	Unconscious: 5 ml/kg of 10% Dextrose IV NO IMPROVEMENT treat as shock
<b>ELECTROLYTE IMBALANCE</b> (empirically)	Facilities for supportive monitoring, investigations and IVF	Potassium: 3-4 mmol/kg/D, orally for 2 wks Magnesium: 0.4-0.6 mmol/kg/DI IM followed by oral for 2 wks
<b>ANEMIA</b>	Facilities for supportive monitoring, investigations and IVF	Whole blood /PRBC transfusion (10 ml/kg over 3 hrs) : if Hb <4 gm/dL or Hb 4-6.5 gm/dL with respiratory distress with close monitoring and hy. Furosemide (1 mg/kg) at start of transfusion

**B. REHABILITATION PHASE** (Transfer to NRC when child meets criteria for discharge\* & accepts home available foods)

FEEDING	ELECTROLYTES	VITAMINS
<p><b>Place of treatment:</b> Facilities for supportive monitoring</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b></p> <p>a. 6 months and above: F75 at least 5 times/day gradually increasing to give 150-200 kCal/kg/day (usually 2-3 days) then switch to F100 for next 5-7 days with introduction of home available food</p> <p>b. Below 6 months: same as above with return to exclusive breastfeeding where ever possible</p>	<p><b>Place of treatment:</b> Facilities for supportive monitoring</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b></p> <p>a. Zinc: 2 mg/kg/day X 2wks orally</p> <p>b. Copper: 0.3 mg/kg/day X 2 wks orally</p> <p>c. Iron: 3 mg/kg/day once weight gain has started orally for 6 weeks</p>	<p><b>Place of treatment:</b> Nutritional rehabilitation center (NRC)</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b></p> <p>a. Vitamin A: &gt;12 months: 2 lac iu, 6-12 months: 1 lac iu, &lt;6 months: 0.5 lac iu if food not fortified</p> <p>b. Vitamin D, A, B Complex: RDA</p>

\* **CRITERIA FOR DISCHARGE FROM HOSPITAL TO OUTPATIENT CARE:** Clinically well and alert; no or resolving medical complications; no or resolving oedema (if present); satisfactory oral intake has a good appetite (taking at least 75% of target calorie intake of 150-200 kcal/kg/day & 0-6 months old have weight gain of 3-5 gm/kg/day for three days).

**PRIMARY FAILURE OF TREATMENT:** (a) Failure to regain appetite by day 4 (b) Failure to lose oedema by day 4 (c) Oedema still present Day 10 (d) Failure to gain at least 5g/Kg/day for 3 consecutive days on catch up diet. Look for unrecognized congenital abnormality, inborn errors of metabolism, immune deficiency, other major organ dysfunction, and malignancy.

**APPETITE TEST:** Passed if a child not fed for last 2 hours, when fed by mother in a quiet place consumes in 1 hour:

- < 12 months: of ≥ 25 ml/kg of F100
- > 12 months: of locally prepared ready to eat food\*\*

**AMOUNT TO BE GIVEN:** 15 gms or more if < 4 kg; 25 gms or more if 4 - 7 kg; 35 gms or more if 7-10 kg

\*\* [Mixture of Roasted groundnut 1000 gm., Milk powder 1200 gms, Sugar 1120 gms, Coconut oil 600 gms. To be kept refrigerated for not more than 1 week.]

HOW TO PREPARE F75 AND F100	F75	F100
FRESH WHOLE CREAM MILK	300 ml	900 ml
SUGAR	100 gm	75 gm
VEGETABLE OIL	20 ml	20 ml
<b>ADD WATER TO GET TOTAL VOLUME OF</b>	1 Litre	1 Litre

**ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>WHZ:</b> Weight for Height Z-score	<b>MUAC:</b> Mid-upper Arm Circumference	<b>MAM:</b> Moderate Acute Malnutrition
<b>SAM:</b> Severe Acute Malnutrition	<b>SD:</b> Standard Deviation (from median)	<b>BMI:</b> Body Mass Index

**KEEP A HIGH THRESHOLD FOR INVASIVE PROCEDURES**

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