
Module 9A : Assess and Classify

Session 4 : Assessment and classification of the sick child : Assess and classify diarrhoea

Day : 4 and 5

Time Required : 2 hours 30 minutes

Objectives

At the end of the session the ASHAs will be able to:

1. Explain what to “ask” when assessing children with diarrhea
2. Explain what to “look for” and “feel” when assessing children with diarrhea
3. Identify signs of dehydration
4. Use the chart to assess and classify a child with diarrhoea

Materials and Preparation

See Checklist of Instructional Material at beginning of sick child module. These materials will be used for all sessions for sick child module.

Training Activities :

Activity - 1 : Participants read ‘Assess and Classify Diarrhoea’ through ‘Classify diarrhoea’

1. Have the participants read their manuals starting from ‘Assess and Classify Diarrhoea’ through till ‘Classify diarrhoea’ to themselves.
2. After this, make sure the participants have understood what to ASK when a child has diarrhoea, and how to LOOK for signs of dehydration.

Activity - 2 : DEMONSTRATION : Classification for Diarrhoea

Display enlarged section of chart or use Case management chart. Explain to the participants how a classification is selected.

Classify Diarrhoea :

There are three classification tables for classifying diarrhoea.

- All children with diarrhoea are classified for dehydration.
- If the child has had diarrhoea for 14 days or more, classify the child as persistent diarrhoea.
- If the child has blood in the stool, classify the child as dysentery.

First Classify Dehydration :

There are three possible classifications of dehydration in a child with diarrhoea:

- Severe Dehydration
- Some Dehydration
- No Dehydration

To classify the child’s dehydration, begin with the pink (or top) row.

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- If **two** or more of the signs in the pink row are present, classify the child as having SEVERE DEHYDRATION.
 - If **two** or more of the signs are not present in the pink row, look at the yellow (or middle) row. If two or more of the signs are presenting the yellow row, classify the child as having SOME DEHYDRATION.
 - If **two** or more of the signs are not present in the pink row or yellow row, classify the child as having NO DEHYDRATION. This child does not have enough signs to be classified as having SEVERE / SOME DEHYDRATION.

Activity - 3 : Conduct Video Exercise and Case Study : “Does the Child have Dehydration?”

Now show them the video on the skin pinch and ask them to do the exercise shown in the video.

Video Exercise and Case Study - “Does the child have dehydration?”

To conduct this video exercise:

When all the participants are ready, show them the video exercise. Make sure they have their modules with them.

1. Tell the participants that in this video exercise, they will:
 - See examples of children with diarrhoea who have the signs of dehydration.
 - Watch a demonstration of a diarrhoea assessment, and how to classify dehydration.
 - Do an exercise to practice recognizing sunken eyes, and slow or very slow skin pinch.
2. Explain that the participants should write answers to the exercises and case study.
3. Participants will then check their answers against those provided on the video.
4. At the end of each exercise, stop the video player. If participants are having trouble identifying a particular sign, rewind the tape, and show the exercise item again. Talk through the exercise item and point to the participants where they should look to recognize the sign.
5. At the end of the video, conduct a short discussion. If participants had any particular difficulty, provide necessary guidance. Emphasize such points during the discussion as:
 - If you see tented skin even briefly after you release the skin, this is a slow skin pinch. A skin pinch which returns immediately is so quick that you will not be able to see the tented skin at all after releasing it.
 - Repeat the skin pinch if you are not sure. Make sure you are doing it correctly.
 - Sometimes children who are sick or tired remain very still in the clinic but they do respond to touch or voice. Josh is an example of this. Such children should not be considered lethargic. It is hard to tell this on the video since you see the child only for a few minutes. If during the initial examination, you think a child is lethargic, but later during the examination, it awakens and becomes alert, do not consider this child to have the general danger sign “lethargic or unconscious”.

6. For each of the children shown, answer the question:

	Does the child have sunken eyes ?	
	YES	NO
Child 1	✓	
Child 2		✓
Child 3	✓	
Child 4		✓
Child 5	✓	
Child 6		✓

7. For each of the children shown, answer the question :

	Does the skin pinch go back :		
	very slowly ?	slowly ?	immediately ?
Child 1		✓	
Child 2			✓
Child 3	✓		
Child 4		✓	
Child 5	✓		

At the end of the video exercise, conduct a short discussion. If participants had any particular difficulty, provide the necessary guidance. Emphasize such points during the discussion as:

- If you can see the tented skin even briefly after you release the skin, this is a slow skin pinch. If the skin pinch returns immediately, so quickly that you cannot see the tented skin at all after releasing it, then it is not a slow skin pinch.
- Repeat the skin pinch if you are not sure. Make sure you are doing it correctly.

Video case study “Josh” :

Management of the sick child age 2 months up to 5 years

Name : Josh Age : 6 months Weight : 6 kg Temperature : 100.4° F (38° C)

ASK: What are the child’s problems? Diarrhoea Initial visit? ✓ Follow-up Visit? _____

ASSESS (circle all signs present)	CLASSIFY
<p>Check for general danger signs</p> <p>Not able to drink or breastfeed Lethargic or Unconscious vomits everything convulsions</p>	<p>General danger signs present? yes___ no_✓_ remember to use danger sign when selecting classifications</p>
<p>Does the child have cough or difficult breathing? Yes_✓_ No___</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For how long? <u>3</u> Days Count the breaths in one minute. <u>56</u> breaths per minute. <u>Fast breathing?</u> Look for chest in-drawing. 	<p>Pneumonia</p>
<p>Does the child have diarrhoea? Yes_✓_ No___</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there blood in the stools? For how long? <u>5</u> Days Look at the child’s general condition. Is the child: Lethargic or unconscious? Restless and/or irritable? <u>Look for sunken eyes.</u> Offer the child fluid. Is the child: Not able to drink or drinking poorly? Drinking eagerly, thirsty? Pinch the skin of the abdomen. Does it go back : <u>Very slowly (longer than 2 seconds)?</u> Slowly? 	<p>Severe Dehydration</p>

Activity - 4 : Photograph Exercise On Skin Pinch

Now show the participants photographs

- Photograph 1 : This child has sunken eyes.
- Photograph 2 : The child’s skin pinch goes back **very** slowly.
- Photograph 3 : The child has sunken eyes.
- Photograph 4 : The child has sunken eyes.
- Photograph 5 : The child does not have sunken eyes.
- Photograph 6 : The child has sunken eyes.
- Photograph 7 : The child’s skin pinch goes back **very** slowly.

Summary

- Ask a participant to explain what to ASK and LOOK for in a child with diarrhoea (*blood in stool? how long has the child had diarrhoea? look for general condition, restlessness, sunken eyes, skin pinch*)
- Ask a participant to explain how to assess a skin pinch? (*If the skin returns to normal immediately after being pinched, the skin pinch is normal; if the skin goes back in less than 2 seconds it is considered 'slow'; if it takes longer than 2 seconds to go back it is 'very slow'*)

Evaluation of the session

Objectives	Assessment Method
Explain what to ask when assessing children with diarrhoea	Questions and answers
Explain what to "look for" and "feel" when assessing children with diarrhea	Questions and answers
Identify signs of dehydration	Video exercises
Use the chart to assess and classify a child with diarrhoea	Video Case Study