

Diagnosis

For use in children < 5yrs who present with vomiting and/or diarrhoea for < 48 hours.

Patient Label

Are any of the following present?

Temperature of 38°C or higher (younger than 3 months)	Yes	No
Temperature of 39°C or higher (3 months or older)	Yes	No
Shortness of breath	Yes	No
Altered conscious state	Yes	No
Neck stiffness	Yes	No
Bulging fontanelle (in infants)	Yes	No
Non-blanching rash	Yes	No
Blood and/or mucus in stool	Yes	No
Bilious (green) vomit	Yes	No
Severe or localised abdominal pain	Yes	No
Abdominal distension	Yes	No
Known diabetes	Yes	No

If **yes** to any of the above gastroenteritis is unlikely, will need further medical assessment.

If **no** to all of the above suspect Gastroenteritis and assess for presence and severity of dehydration ([see page 2](#))

Plus:

Calculate PEWS Check BM

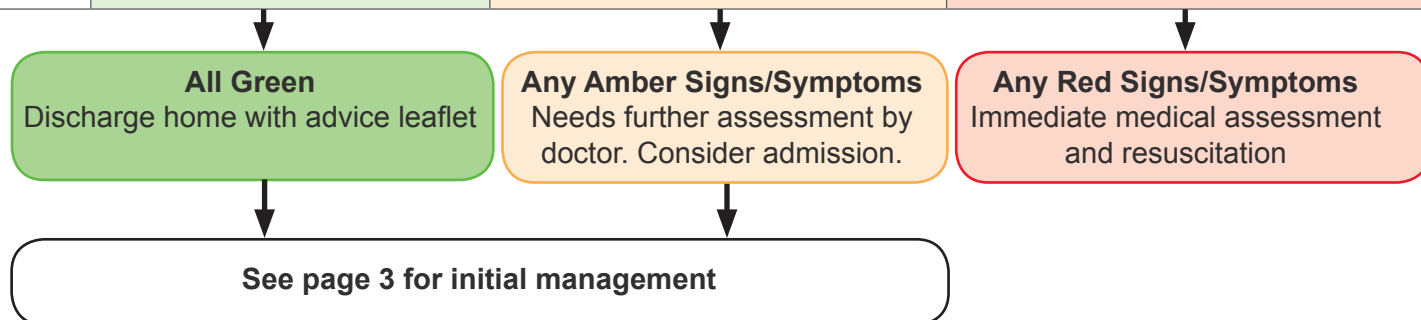
This guidance is written in the following context

This care pathway is based on NICE guidance, which was arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. Healthcare professionals are expected to take it fully into account when exercising their clinical judgement. The guidance does not, however, override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Assessment of Hydration Status

Increasing severity of dehydration →

	No clinically detectable dehydration	Clinical dehydration	Clinical shock
Symptoms (remote and face-to-face assessments)	Appears well <input type="checkbox"/>	☑ Appears to be unwell or deteriorating <input type="checkbox"/>	-
	Alert and responsive <input type="checkbox"/>	☑ Altered responsiveness (for example, irritable, lethargic) <input type="checkbox"/>	Decreased level of consciousness <input type="checkbox"/>
	Normal urine output <input type="checkbox"/>	Decreased urine output <input type="checkbox"/>	-
	Skin colour unchanged <input type="checkbox"/>	Skin colour unchanged <input type="checkbox"/>	Pale or mottled skin <input type="checkbox"/>
	Warm extremities <input type="checkbox"/>	Warm extremities <input type="checkbox"/>	Cold extremities <input type="checkbox"/>
Signs (face-to-face assessments)	Alert and responsive <input type="checkbox"/>	☑ Altered responsiveness (for example, irritable, lethargic) <input type="checkbox"/>	Decreased level of consciousness <input type="checkbox"/>
	Skin colour unchanged <input type="checkbox"/>	Skin colour unchanged <input type="checkbox"/>	Pale or mottled skin <input type="checkbox"/>
	Warm extremities <input type="checkbox"/>	Warm extremities <input type="checkbox"/>	Cold extremities <input type="checkbox"/>
	Eyes not sunken <input type="checkbox"/>	☑ Sunken eyes <input type="checkbox"/>	-
	Moist mucous membranes (except after drink) <input type="checkbox"/>	Dry mucous membranes (except for 'mouth breather') <input type="checkbox"/>	-
	Normal heart rate <input type="checkbox"/>	☑ Tachycardia <input type="checkbox"/>	Tachycardia <input type="checkbox"/>
	Normal breathing pattern <input type="checkbox"/>	☑ Tachypnoea <input type="checkbox"/>	Tachypnoea <input type="checkbox"/>
	Normal peripheral pulses <input type="checkbox"/>	Normal peripheral pulses <input type="checkbox"/>	Weak peripheral pulses <input type="checkbox"/>
	Normal capillary refill time <input type="checkbox"/>	Normal capillary refill time <input type="checkbox"/>	Prolonged capillary refill time <input type="checkbox"/>
	Normal skin turgor <input type="checkbox"/>	☑ Reduced skin turgor <input type="checkbox"/>	-
	Normal blood pressure <input type="checkbox"/>	Normal blood pressure <input type="checkbox"/>	Hypotension (indicates decompensated shock) <input type="checkbox"/>
	PEWS score less than 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	PEWS score more than 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	

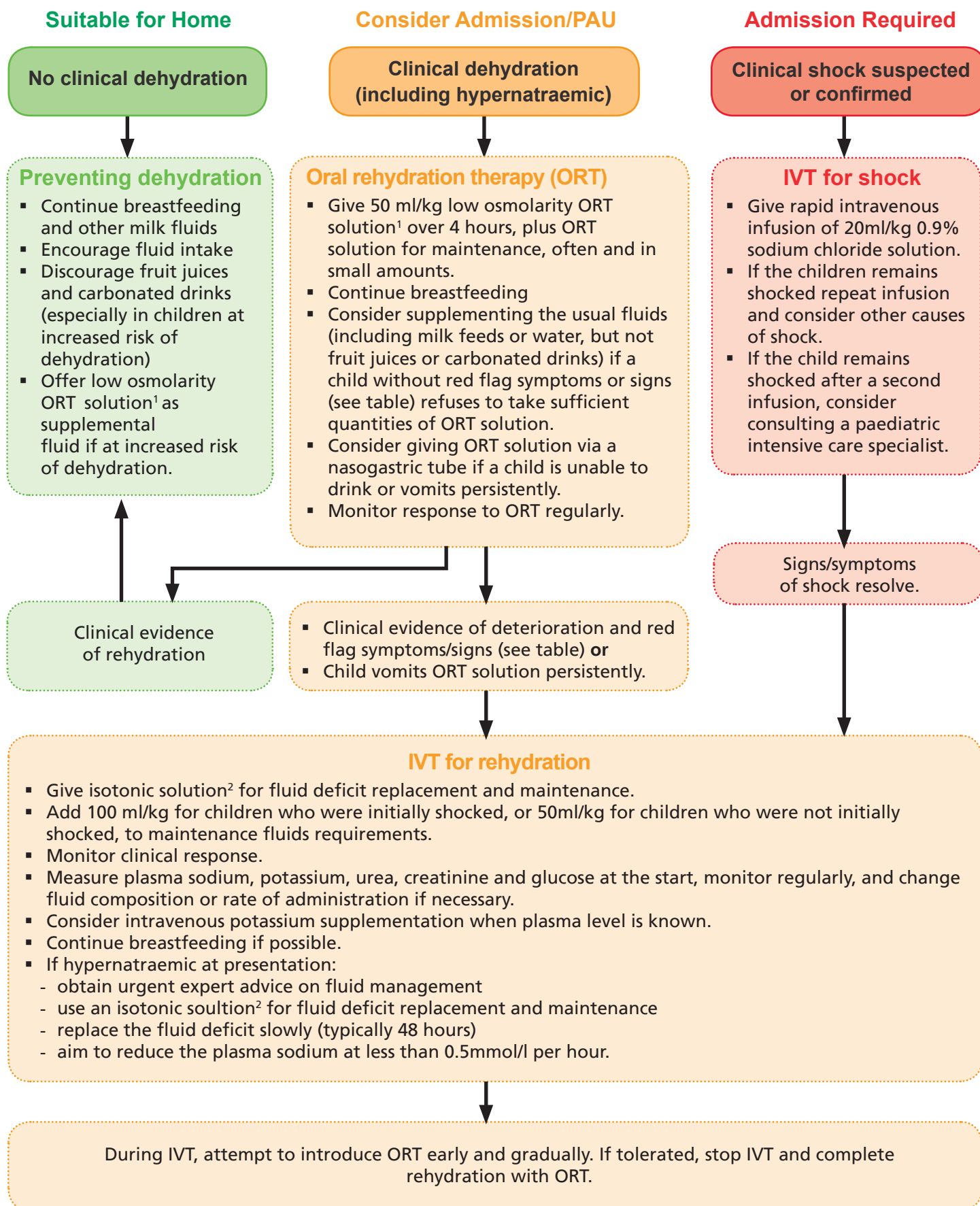


Symptoms and signs of clinical dehydration and shock

Interpret symptoms and signs taking into account risk factors for dehydration. More numerous and more pronounced symptoms and/or signs of clinical dehydration indicate greater severity. For clinical shock, one or more symptoms or signs would be present.

Red flag (☑) symptoms and signs may help to identify children at increased risk of progression to shock. If in doubt, manage as if there are red flag symptoms or signs. Dashes (-) indicate that these clinical features do not specifically indicate shock.

Initial Management of Gastroenteritis



¹ 240-250 mOsm/l. The 'BNFC' 2008 edition lists the following products with this composition: Dioralyte, Dioralyte Relief, Electrolade and Rapolyte.

² Such as 0.9% sodium chloride, or 0.9% sodium chloride with 5% glucose.