

## Correction

Unfortunately there was an error in the paper by Chris Cowley and David Graham, *Management of childhood gastroenteritis*, in the April issue of *NZFP*. This was in the table on page 111 outlining nurse initiated management of childhood gastroenteritis in the section headed 'Oral rehydration'. Rather than simply report the correction we have chosen to reproduce the corrected page as we hope that readers will copy this for use in their practices. We would also like to remind readers that the package includes a useful two-page 'information for parents' handout. Editor.

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**CORRECTION:** 'Management of childhood gastroenteritis' (NZJP 2005; 32: 110–116)**Nurse Initiated Management of Childhood Gastroenteritis**

<b>IF</b>	Child presents diarrhoea +/- vomiting Age >2 months and not shocked (see Flowchart 1)
<b>THEN</b>	Weigh TPR Assess dehydration (see Flowchart 1 Note 2) <b>If concerned or child age &lt;2 months inform doctor</b> If no dehydration go through caregiver information handout on fluids and feeding
<b>Oral Rehydration</b>	If mild to moderate dehydration Calculate fluid requirements as mls per 5 mins (see table Flowchart 2) Start fluid balance chart, start hydration Nurse gives first sips of fluid using teaspoon, bottle, straw, sipper cup, syringe
<b>Learning</b>	Carers observe the nurse giving first fluids, with explanation Carers administer the next fluids, initially with supervision Nurse goes through education handout with the caregiver
<b>Review</b>	Reassess after 1 hour If after 2 hours child not taking fluids consider alternative rehydration method Insert nasogastric and observe for 2–4 hours Reassess admit to ward or discharge Remove nasogastric tube before discharge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider using paracetamol for fever or distress</li> </ul>
<b>Medical Review</b>	Prior to discharge to be seen by a doctor

**Note 2: Hydration Assessment Tool**

Symptoms	No dehydration	Mild to moderate 5–9% At least 2 findings will be present	Severe dehydration (10%)+ In addition 1 of these will be altered
Eyes	Normal	Sunken eyes (and minimal or no tears)	More sunken
Mucous membranes	Normal	Dry	Drier
Tissue perfusion	Normal	Decreased	Decreased
Pulse volume	Normal	Normal	Decreased and tachycardic
Breathing	Normal	Normal	Deep acidotic
Tissue turgor	Normal	Decreased (pinch test 1–2 sec)	Decreased
Neurological status	Normal	Normal	Altered

In Hypernatraemic dehydration, signs of dehydration may be less obvious