

Paediatric Education and Research Ladder Department of Paediatrics and Child Health Faculty of Health Sciences University of the Witwatersrand

Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital 26 Chris Hani Road, Soweto, Johannesburg, 1860



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Malnutrition in children: Suggested learning plan

Dear Paediatric Registrar

After the SAPA lecture on severe acute malnutrition, there have been several requests for the lecture and learning material. The lecture has been recorded, and is explanatory in nature. For learning purposes, we recommend the following strategy:

1. Start with the material available from UpToDate®. This information is comprehensive but manageable, and will take about 6-10 hours of focused work (depending on your baseline knowledge of malnutrition). The reviews are current, reflect current practices by experts in the field, and allude to the controversies in fluid management. The topics to read are:

- a. Malnutrition in children in resource-limited countries: Clinical assessment [Topic 5883 Version 38.0]
- b. Management of uncomplicated severe acute malnutrition in children in resource-limited countries [Topic 113959 Version 8.0]
- c. Management of complicated severe acute malnutrition in children in resourcelimited countries [Topic 5901 Version 30.0]
- d. Poor weight gain in children younger than two years in resource-abundant countries: Management [Topic 2874 Version 39.0]

It is advisable that you also cover the following topic, as it fits in with the theme of malnutrition (about 90 minutes of focused work):

e. Poor weight gain in children older than two years in resource-abundant countries [Topic 2877 Version 30.0]

2. Skim through the following resources, and read the relevant sections if you require more detail (although the material from UpToDate® is more recent regarding management – especially fluid therapy and nutritional therapy).

- a. The work by Professor Golden and Dr Grellety (Protocol: Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition; 200 pages) is especially good regarding the interpretation of clinical signs in malnutrition (especially the assessment of dehydration).
- b. The South African guidelines (2015) gives you sound practical tips on managing nutritional programmes in the South African context.

Assoc Prof Sanjay Lala MBBCh(Wits) DCH (SA) DTM&H (Wits) FCPaed(SA) MMed (Wits) PhD (London) Assoc Prof Ziyaad Dangor MBBCh(Wits) MMed (Wits) FCPaed(SA) PhD (Wits) Cert Pulm(SA)

Paediatric Education and Research Ladder (PEARL). Directors: Associate Professor Sanjay Lala (<u>sanjay.lala@wits.ac.za</u>) and Associate Professor Ziyaad Dangor (<u>ziyaad.dangor@wits.ac.za</u>)

