

INTEGRATING ASSESSMENT OF NUTRITIONAL STATUS INTO THE CLINICAL APPROACH TO UNWELL CHILDREN UNDER 5 IN PRIMARY CARE.



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Introduction

Target 2.2 and 3.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) is to end all form of malnutrition and to end preventable deaths of under five children respectively. Worldwide, more than half of the under five mortalities have underlying malnutrition. In Malaysia, 30% of the under five mortality are preventable and contributed by substandard care. Failure of healthcare providers to identify malnutrition as co-morbidity is an issue in the conventional “single condition approach” whilst the local prevalence of childhood malnutrition is still notable.

Clinical experience

WHO/UNICEF have addressed the above challenges by introducing the *Integrated Management of Childhood Illness* (IMCI) strategy in 1995. It combines nutritional element into the holistic management of major childhood illness at primary care level. In Malaysia, IMCI was implemented in several rural predominant areas with poor access to adequate healthcare exclusively in states of Pahang, Sabah and Sarawak

Focusing on undernutrition, Pahang State Health Department in 2015 has came out with the *Integrated Management of Malnutrition in Children Under 5* (IMMCU5) manual which incorporates outpatient care adopted from IMCI with inpatient protocols for severe malnutrition cases.

Ministry of Health Malaysia later on adapted IMCI into the *Approach To Unwell Children Under 5 years* (ATUCU-5) manual in 2018. ATUCU5 consolidates key IMCI contents with locally common childhood diseases eg. dengue and it is practiced nationwide. Author is an IMCI trainer and involved in the development and training of both later manuals.

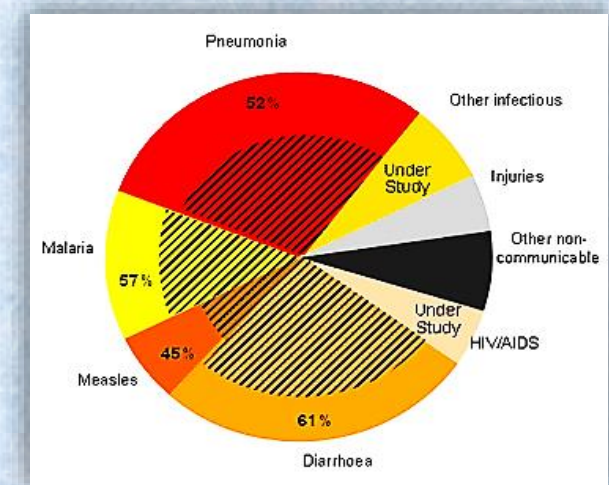


Fig. 1: Contribution of undernutrition to global under 5 death 2013

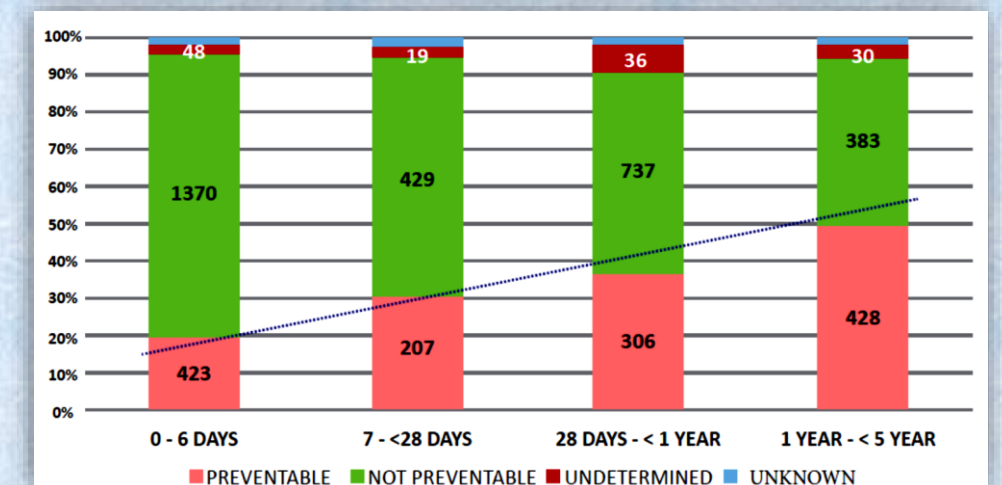


Fig. 2: Preventability of under 5 death in Malaysia 2017

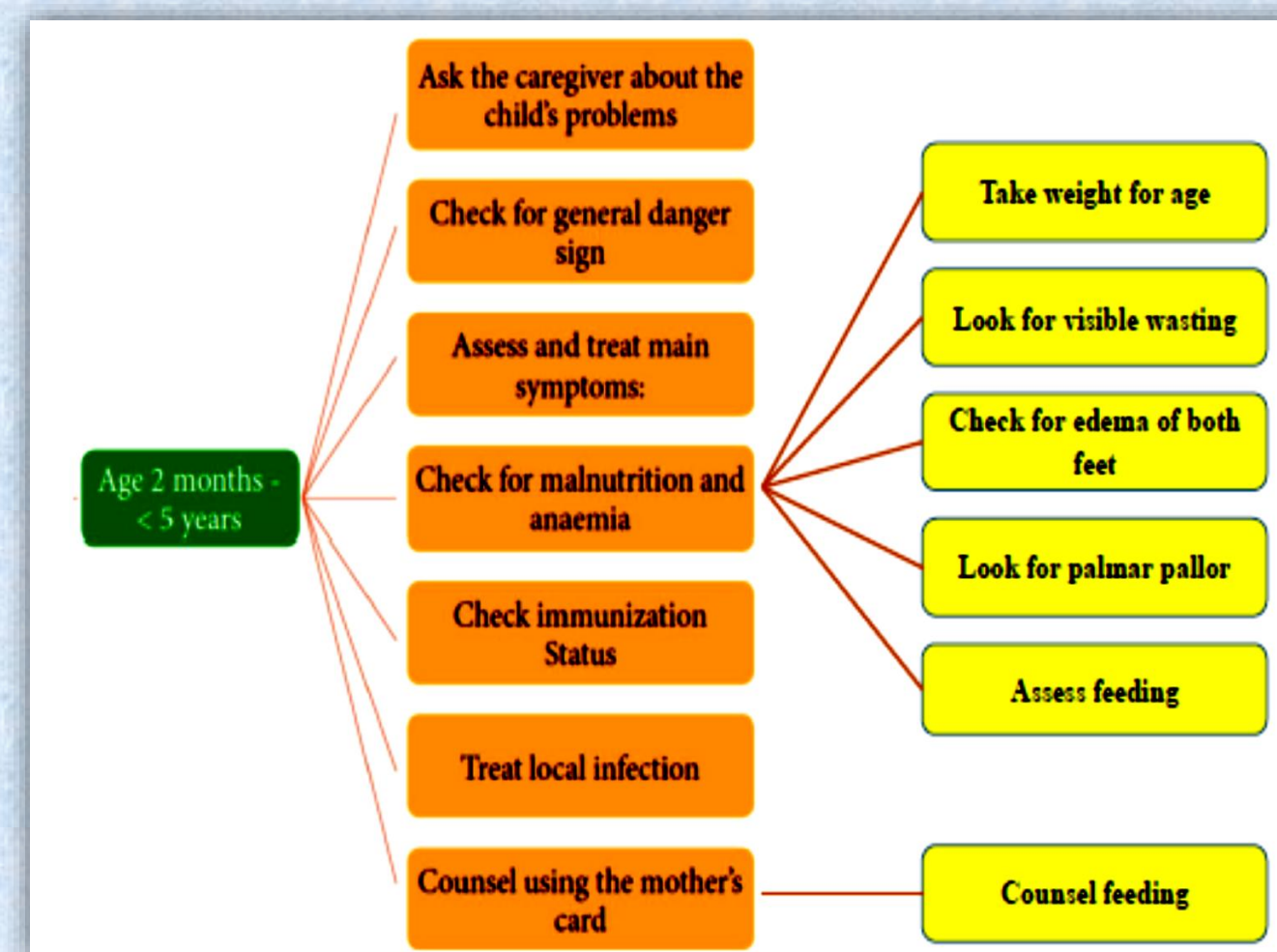


Fig. 3: IMCI strategy for sick child including nutritional assessment

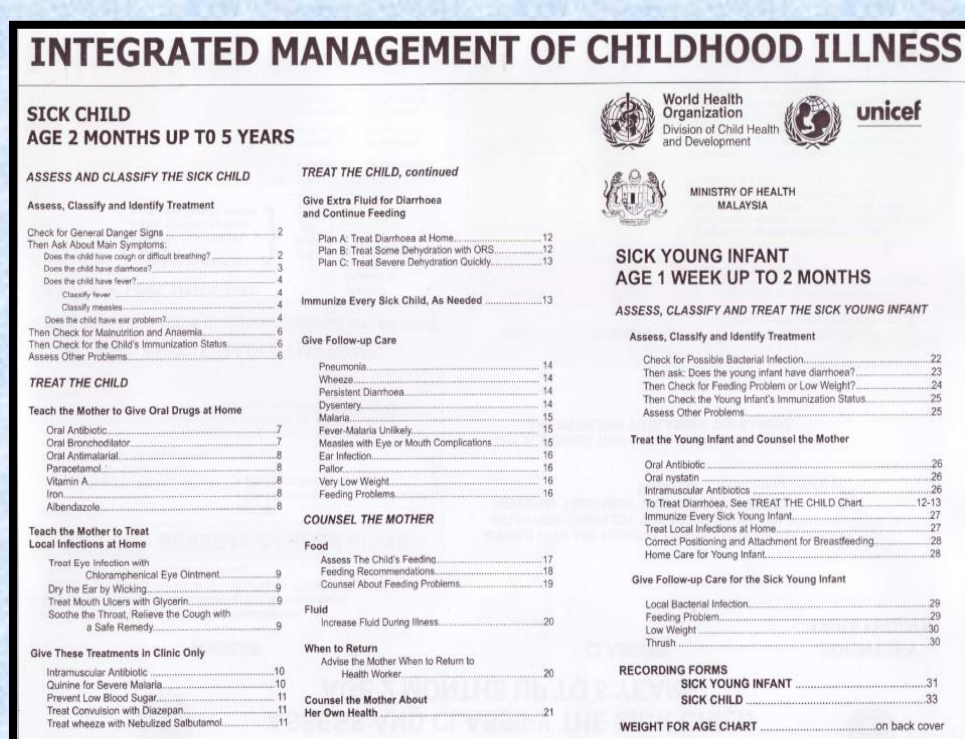


Fig. 5: IMCI guidelines 1995



Fig. 6: IMMCU5 manual 2015

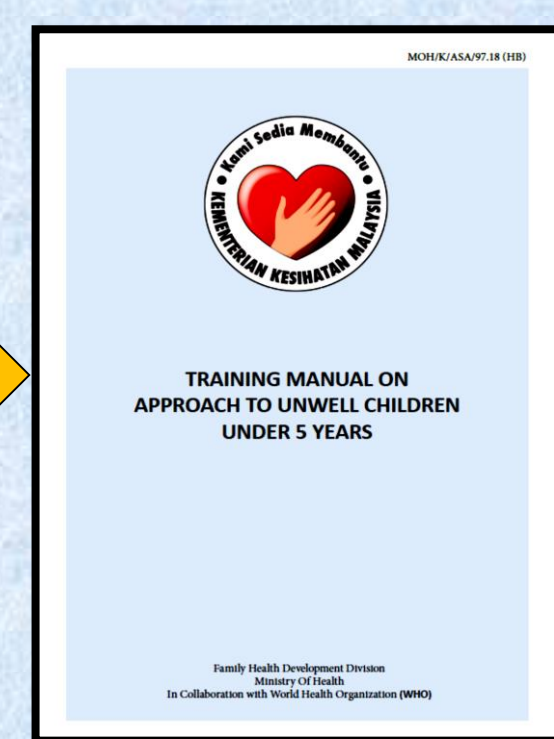


Fig. 7: ATUCU5 manual 2018

Conclusion

The expansion of IMCI strategy that emphasizes whole person approach and integrates nutritional component into routine clinical encounters would aid to achieve both SDGs target.

References

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2. *Training manual on Approach To Unwell Children Under 5 years*. 2019. BPKK Ministry of Health Malaysia <https://fh.moh.gov.my/v3/index.php/component/jdownloads/send/20-sektor-kesihatan-kanak-kanak/702-20200819-atucu5-0191018-fa-edit-11-11-2020-compressed?Itemid=0>
3. *Integrated Management of Malnutrition in Children Under 5 - Manual for health care provider*. 2015. Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Pahang. <http://irep.iium.edu.my/69197/>

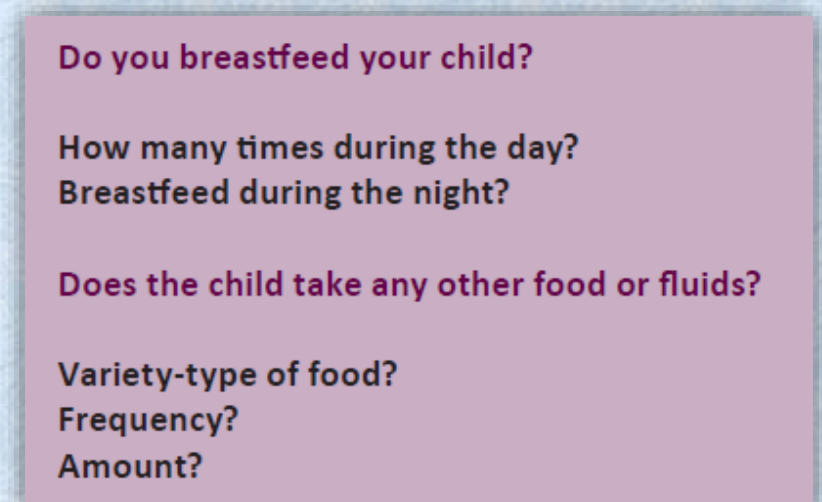


Fig. 8: Feeding assessment in IMCI

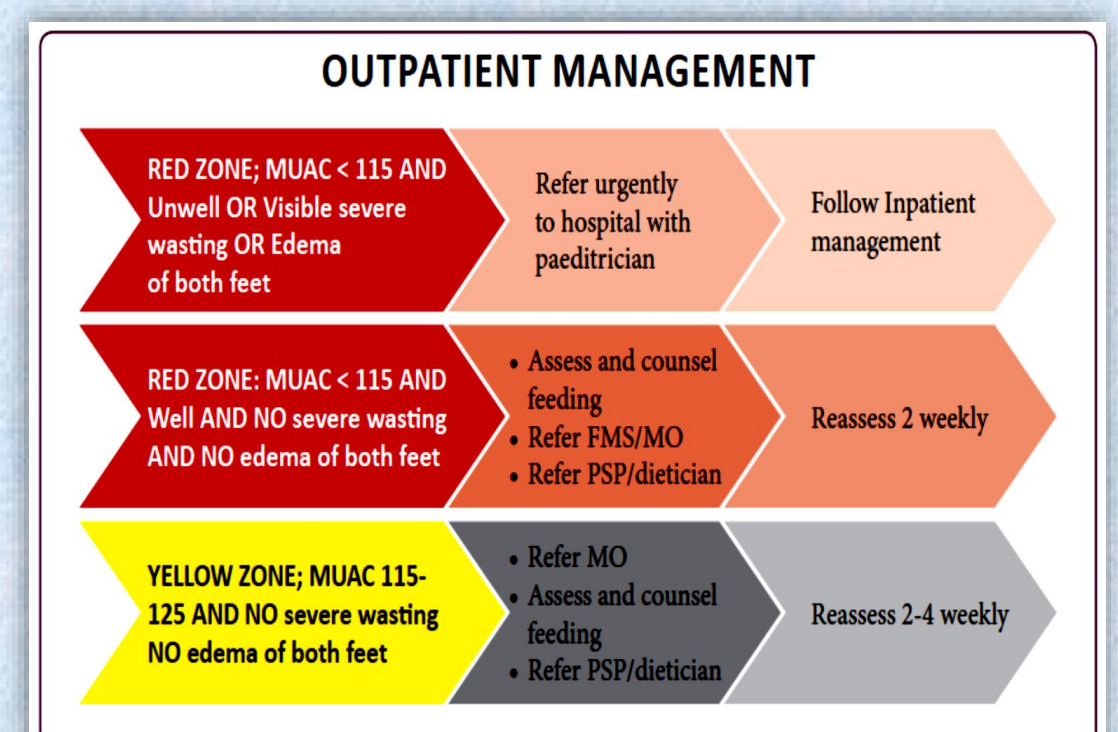


Fig. 9: Outline for management of malnutrition in ATUCU5