

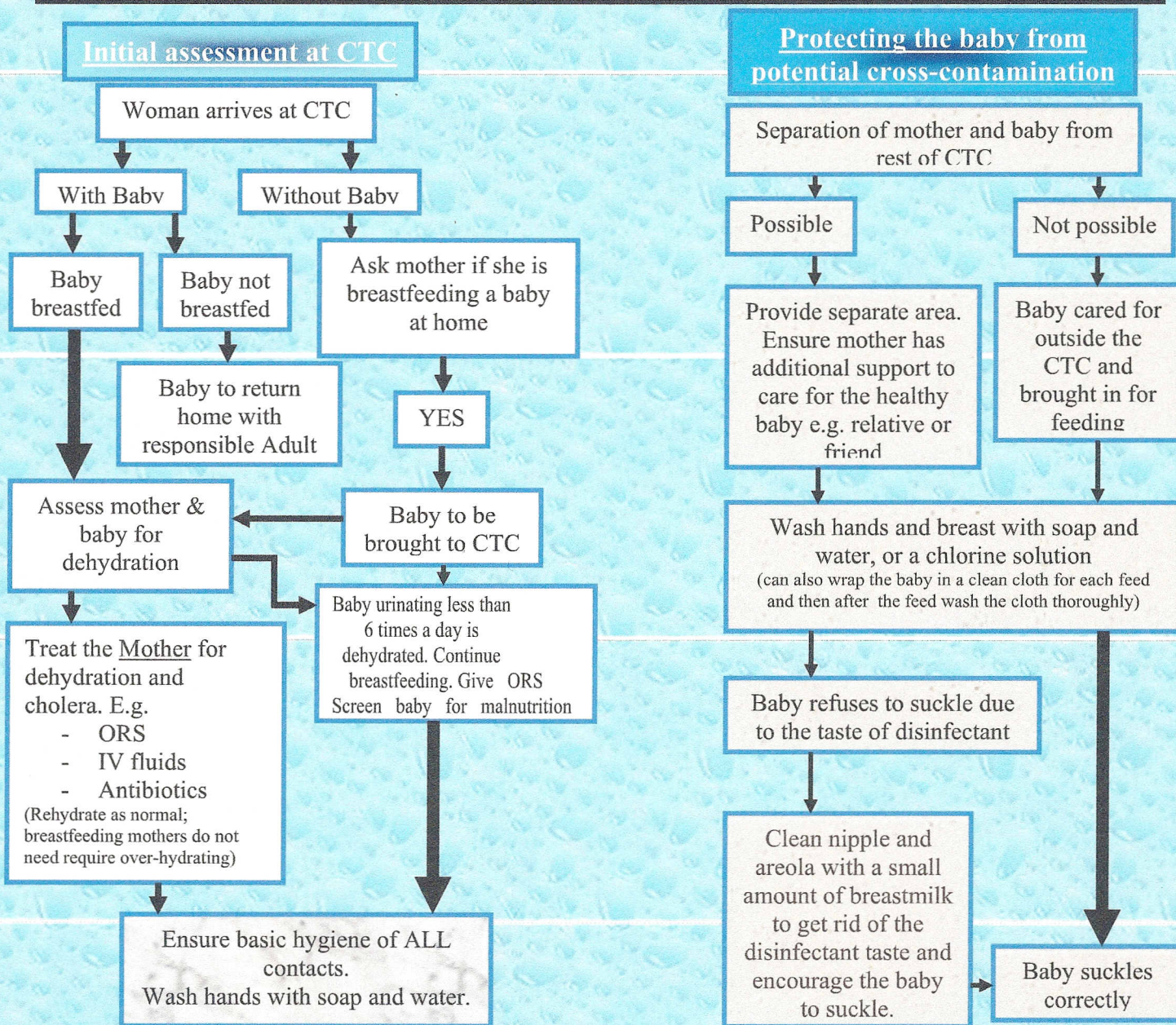
BREASTFEEDING MOTHERS IN CHOLERA TREATMENT CENTRES

BREASTFEEDING FACTS:

- Mothers with cholera should continue to breastfeed their child as long as the mother is conscious (even when getting IV fluids). Breastfeeding does not make cholera worse.
- Breastmilk contains properties that protect breastfeeding infants/children from getting cholera^{1,2}.
- In addition to the anti-infective properties of breastmilk breastfeeding also provides safe water and food.
- Severe dehydration can decrease breastmilk volume - rehydration can correct this quickly (e.g. within an hour by IV fluid and ORS). (A breastfeeding mother does not require over-hydrating)
- Non-breastfed infants are 6-25 times more likely to die in unhygienic conditions, mainly due to diarrhoea and malnutrition³, they are also more likely to get cholera.
- Infants below 6 months of age should be exclusively breastfed and those over 6 months should continue to receive breastmilk in addition to other foods. The more a baby suckles the more milk the mother will produce (however if the mother has cholera it is important that she receives the rehydration that she requires).

1 Ardythe L. Morrow, PhD, and Josefa M. Rangel, MD Human Milk Protection Against Infectious Diarrhea: Implications for Prevention and Clinical Care. Semin Pediatr Infect Dis.2004;15:221-228.

2 Qureshi K, Molbak K, Sandstrom A et al. Breast milk reduces the risk of illness in children of mothers with cholera Observations from an epidemic of cholera in Guinea-Bissau. The Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal 2006;25(12):1163-1166



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