#### INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF CHILDHOOD ILLNESS

# TREAT THE CHILD

World Health Organization and UNICEF 1997

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### **INTRODUCTION**

In the previous module you learned to identify the treatment needed for sick children age 2 months up to 5 years. Sick children often begin treatment at a clinic and need to continue treatment at home. The chart *TREAT THE CHILD* describes the treatments.

In this module you will use the chart to learn *how to give* each treatment. You will also learn *how to teach the mother* to continue giving treatment at home.

#### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This module will describe and allow you to practice the following skills:

- \* Determining appropriate oral drugs and dosages for a sick child
- \* Giving oral drugs (including antibiotics, antimalarials, paracetamol, vitamin A, iron and mebendazole), and teaching the mother how and when to give oral drugs at home
- \* Treating local infections (such as eye infections, ear drainage, mouth ulcers, sore throat and cough), and teaching the mother how and when to give the treatments at home
- \* Checking a mother's understanding
- \* Giving drugs administered in the clinic only (intramuscular injections of chloramphenicol and quinine)
- Preventing low blood sugar
- \* Treating different classifications of dehydration, and teaching the mother about extra fluid to give at home
- \* Immunizing children

## 1.0 SELECT THE APPROPRIATE ORAL DRUG AND DETERMINE THE DOSE AND SCHEDULE

Use the *TREAT THE CHILD* chart to select the appropriate drug, and to determine the dose and schedule. There are some points to remember about each oral drug.

#### 1.1 GIVE AN APPROPRIATE ORAL ANTIBIOTIC

Children with the following classifications need an antibiotic.

- SEVERE PNEUMONIA OR VERY SEVERE DISEASE
- PNEUMONIA
- > SEVERE DEHYDRATION with cholera in the area
- DYSENTERY
- > VERY SEVERE FEBRILE DISEASE
- > SEVERE COMPLICATED MEASLES
- > MASTOIDITIS
- ACUTE EAR INFECTION

In many health facilities more than one type of antibiotic will be available. You must learn to **select the most appropriate antibiotic** for the child's illness. If the child is able to drink, give an oral antibiotic.

The appropriate oral antibiotic for each illness varies by country. The antibiotics recommended in your country are on your *TREAT THE CHILD* chart. Refer to the chart on the following page.

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