GUIDELINE ON THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF WASTING AND NUTRITIONAL OEDEMA (ACUTE MALNUTRITION) IN INFANTS AND CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS (WHO, 2023)

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Overview

This document is a guideline by the World Health Organization (WHO) on the prevention and management of wasting and nutritional edema (acute malnutrition) in infants and children under 5 years of age. Evidence-informed recommendations and good practice statements are highlighted. The guideline is necessary to inform and update national or organizational protocols to effectively manage and prevent acute malnutrition, which significantly affects child mortality and long-term health. The document is provided here for context in product development.

Key components of the document include guidance on i) identifying and managing infants at risk of poor growth and development ii) addressing moderate and severe wasting and nutritional edema in children from 6 months to 5 years old and iii) prevention strategies for wasting and nutritional edema from a broader child health perspective. Important tables and charts include the the descriptors of the 2023 WHO guideline compared to the 2013 guideline (p.3), best practice recommendations, web annex F which provides information on energy requirements, and web annex H which provides information on optimal dietary management for moderate wasting, and provides information on quantity and duration.

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Overall this document provides context for how these products designed for malnourished children will be used and the amount and quantity that need to be fed.

Link to Document

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