

that her temperature is 38° C (100.4° F), her pulse and blood pressure are in the normal range, her mucous membranes are moist, and she has tears when she cries. The nurse practitioner also notes that Mary's weight has not changed from what it was when she was seen in the clinic 2 weeks ago for her well-child visit. What interventions should the nurse practitioner include in her initial management of Mary?

Questions

1. Evidence: Is there sufficient evidence for the nurse and nurse practitioner to draw any conclusions for her initial plan of management?
2. Assumptions: Describe some underlying assumptions about the following:
 - a. Clinical manifestations of various levels of dehydration
 - b. Management of acute diarrhea
 - c. Breastfeeding and the management of acute diarrhea
 - d. Use of antidiarrheal medications for acute diarrhea
3. What nursing interventions should the nurse and nurse practitioner implement at this time?
4. Does the evidence support the nurse and nurse practitioner's conclusion?

If the child with acute diarrhea and dehydration is hospitalized, the nurse must obtain an accurate weight and carefully monitor intake and output. The child may be placed on parenteral fluid therapy with nothing by mouth (NPO) for 12 to 48 hours, but small amounts of oral fluids may be started unless there are other illnesses.