

Chart 1. Stages in the management of a sick child admitted to hospital: key elements

TRIAGE

- Check for emergency signs ————— (present) —————> Give **emergency treatment** until stable
- Check for priority signs or conditions

HISTORY AND EXAMINATION

(including assessment of vaccination status, nutritional status and feeding)

- Check children with emergency and priority conditions first.
- Laboratory and other investigations**, if required

List and consider **differential diagnoses**
Select main diagnoses (and secondary diagnoses)

Plan and begin **inpatient treatment**
(including supportive care)

Plan and begin **outpatient treatment**.

Arrange **follow-up**, if required.

Monitor for signs of
— improvement
— complications
— failure of treatment.

(not improving or new problem)

(improving)

Reassess
for causes of failure of
treatment.

Continue treatment.
Plan discharge.

Revise treatment.

Discharge home.
Arrange continuing care or
follow-up at hospital or in
the community.