



## Takeaway: M6 S21 Nutritional Treatment – Infants <6m

### Key Messages:

- It is essential to **distinguish between those in whom breastfeeding is a possibility and the exceptional cases where it is not possible.**
- Every effort must be made **to maintain or promote the return to exclusive breastfeeding.**
- **Breastfeeding counselling and support are a vital part** of both inpatient and outpatient care.
- In instances where breastfeeding is not possible a supplementary breastmilk substitute will be necessary: **The caretaker must be trained to prepare it and, on the hygiene, measures needed for this**
- **types of milk are (listed on order of preference):**
  - **Breast milk** (for breastfed infants)
  - **Breast milk substitute (BMS):** infant formula or **F-100 diluted** (the choice of which milk is used will vary according to the MSF section you work for)

### Inpatient Nutritional Treatment

- **ITFC** Infants **with the possibility of breast-feeding:**
  - **Objective:** infant is able to meet full nutritional requirements via exclusive breastfeeding (if possible)
  - When **the breast milk is sufficient, but the intake is insufficient:** provide **breastfeeding + feeding expressed breastmilk (cup, spoon or NGT).**
  - When **the breast milk is insufficient:** The **supplementary suckling technique** will be used to stimulate the breast and to increase mother's milk production while giving a **milk supplement (infant formula or F-100 diluted)**
  - The Nutritional treatment is delivered in **3 stages** where the milk supplementation is decreased whilst increasing exclusive breastmilk intake, as long as the child is gaining weight
- **ITFC** Infants **without possibility of breast-feeding:**
  - The nutritional treatment is also divided into **3 stages**, in order to progressively increase the quantities of infant formula

### Outpatient Nutritional Treatment

- At the **ATFC**, the management of infants will be based on **maternal counselling and support** (i.e. breastfeeding counselling and support, or replacement feeding counselling and support (if breastfeeding not possible))
- **Monitoring (ITFC and ATFC):**
  - The infant's weight should be checked daily in ITFC (or at each visit at the ATFC) with an electronic infant scale graduated to within 10g (or 20g).
- For children admitted into ATFC, a CHW should do a home visit between the visits in the ATFC to check on the clinical status of the infant and the feeding practices at home.