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## 30 **Background**

31 Worldwide, antibiotics are used inappropriately to treat diarrhea, and the prevalence of multidrug-resistant  
32 bacterial diarrheal pathogens is high. Such issues might be particularly severe in South Asia. In India, studies  
33 found 90% of 145 ambulatory adults[1] and 71% of 843 children presenting to outpatient or inpatient settings[2]  
34 with acute diarrhea were treated with antibiotics, in conflict with India's national diarrhea management  
35 guidelines.[3] In one study among private practitioners in Pakistan, 96% of prescriptions for patients with acute  
36 childhood diarrhea included at least one antibiotic.[4] High rates of multidrug resistance have been found in  
37 India and Pakistan among many important causes of diarrhea: enterotoxigenic,[5] enterohemorrhagic,[5] and  
38 enteroaggregative[6] *E. coli*, *V. cholerae*,[7] and *Shigella*[8, 9] and *Salmonella*[10, 11] species. Antimicrobial  
39 resistance can lead to treatment dilemmas and increased morbidity and mortality among the infected  
40 populations. However, due to global markets and the frequency of international travel, antimicrobial resistance  
41 among enteric pathogens is problematic not just for the local population. Antimicrobial drug resistance  
42 mechanisms, such as CTX-M-15 extended-spectrum beta-lactamase and New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase-1,  
43 which severely limit therapeutic options, emerged in India and subsequently spread worldwide.[12, 13]  
44 Additionally, up to 40% of persons traveling from industrialized to developing countries will develop travel-  
45 associated diarrhea, accounting for approximately 160 million cases per year.[14, 15]

46 Because of the challenges inherent in developing new classes of antimicrobial medications, preserving the  
47 function of the limited number of existing drugs is critical. Multiple studies have documented that, among  
48 children with diarrhea given oral rehydration therapy for diarrhea, adding zinc to the treatment regimen led to  
49 decreased antibiotic use.[16, 17] Thus, patients and health care providers can be redirected to non-  
50 antimicrobial medications to satisfy the desire to actively treat the illness, to relieve symptoms, and to permit  
51 the patient to return to work and other activities sooner. Because many adult patients with diarrhea in Pakistan  
52 are believed to be treated with antimicrobial medications,[18] but zinc is not indicated for adult patients with  
53 diarrhea, Pepto-Bismol could fill an important niche in reducing inappropriate use of antimicrobial medications.

54 Studies have found that Pepto-Bismol reduced the duration of gastrointestinal symptoms among university  
55 students with diarrhea in Mexico,[19] university students artificially infected with norovirus in the US[20], and  
56 children <5 years old with acute diarrhea.[21, 22] However, there are few published data about the  
57 effectiveness of Pepto-Bismol in older adults and across diverse etiologies of acute diarrhea. We propose a  
58 study of the effectiveness of Pepto-Bismol for acute diarrhea among adult outpatients with acute diarrhea in  
59 Pakistan, and an assessment of the types and costs of additional treatments these patients seek during their  
60 illness.

## 61 **Objectives**

### 62 *Primary*

- 63 1) To assess Pepto-Bismol's impact on use of antimicrobial medications among adult outpatients  
64 with acute diarrhea

### 65 *Secondary*

- 66 1) To assess Pepto-Bismol's impact on perceived need for antimicrobial medications among adult  
67 outpatients with acute diarrhea

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- 68 2) To assess Pepto-Bismol’s impact on additional care-seeking among adult outpatients with acute
- 69 diarrhea
- 70 3) To determine Pepto-Bismol’s effectiveness in reducing duration and severity of acute diarrhea
- 71 among adult outpatients
- 72 4) To measure the proportion of adult outpatients presenting with diarrhea for whom private
- 73 clinicians recommend antibiotics
- 74

## 75 **Methods**

76 *Setting:* Ambulatory care clinics staffed by licensed allopathic physicians, in low- to middle-income, multi-ethnic  
77 urban communities in Pakistan, during the rainy season (July – September). We will recruit general practitioners  
78 who treat adults with acute conditions and who typically evaluate  $\geq 30$  patients per day during the rainy season.  
79 General practitioners will screen patients and manage them per protocol. We will select 10 clinics that operate  
80 during typical business hours and 10 clinics that operate in the evening to ensure that patients from a wide  
81 range of demographics have the opportunity to enroll. Field work will be conducted by staff from Health-  
82 Oriented Preventive Education, a Karachi-based non-governmental organization working on health and  
83 education in communities in Pakistan.

## 84 **Design**

- 85 1. Eligibility. Persons aged 15 – 65 years old presenting with mild to moderate, non-bloody, acute diarrhea
- 86 ( $\geq 3$  loose stools/day for  $< 3$  days) to participating health care settings will be screened for eligibility. We
- 87 set the lower age bound at 15 years because, while the study drug is approved for use in children 12
- 88 years and older, children younger than 15 years may not be able to complete study tasks reliably. The
- 89 upper age bound is set at 65 years because diarrheal illness tends to be more severe in older persons.
- 90 We will include patients for whom the study physicians recommend antimicrobial treatment. Patients
- 91 who are pregnant, require hospitalization, or who have signs or symptoms of septicemia, a primary
- 92 complaint of another acute illness, a serious chronic illness, an allergy to aspirin, or who have been
- 93 exposed to antimicrobial or antidiarrheal medications within 72 hours of enrollment will be excluded.
- 94 Patients may enroll in only one arm of the study, once during the study period.
- 95 2. Groups. Patients will be assigned to one of two treatment groups.
- 96 a. Intervention group. The study drug, Pepto-Bismol (bismuth subsalicylate), will be dosed as
- 97 chewable tablets each containing 262 mg bismuth subsalicylate. Patients will be instructed to
- 98 take 2 tablets every 30 – 60 min as needed for diarrhea, but not to exceed 8 doses (16 tablets)
- 99 per 24 h. Patients may discontinue the medication when stools become formed. Each patient
- 100 will be given 32 tablets of the study drug.
- 101 b. Control group. Placebo tablets will be visually identical to the study drug but will not contain
- 102 any bismuth subsalicylate. Patients will be instructed to take 2 tablets every 30 – 60 min as
- 103 needed for diarrhea, but not to exceed 8 doses (16 tablets) per 24 h. Patients may discontinue
- 104 the tablets when stools become formed. Each patient will be given 32 placebo tablets.
- 105 c. Instructions and interventions for both groups.
- 106 i. Patients will receive a 48-h supply of the study drug or placebo and instructions about
- 107 how to use it; oral or intravenous hydration as required; and standard counseling about

108 supportive care and prevention of diarrhea. The first dose of study medication/placebo  
109 will be administered before leaving the physician's office (attachment 6).

- 110 ii. Patients will not be given antibiotics upon enrollment.
- 111 iii. Patients will be encouraged to seek care from the study physician at any time they feel  
112 substantially worse than they did at enrollment, without waiting for additional direction  
113 from study staff.
- 114 iv. Patients will be asked to submit a stool specimen or rectal swab at the time of  
115 enrollment. If the patient is not able to produce a stool specimen at the clinic and does  
116 not wish to undergo rectal swabbing, study staff will attempt to collect a stool specimen  
117 during the first home visit. The stool/rectal swab will be cultured at Aga Khan University  
118 laboratories for standard enteric pathogens, and resulting isolates will be tested for  
119 antimicrobial susceptibility. Isolates will be stored for 1 year.
- 120 v. At 24 h after taking the initial dose of study drug/placebo. Study staff will visit patient  
121 to collect information and assess patient condition. Patients will be instructed to return  
122 to the clinic for additional management if they report feeling worse than they did at the  
123 time they took the initial dose of study drug/placebo. The physician will evaluate and  
124 treat the patient at his/her discretion. The study drug/placebo will be discontinued, but  
125 the patient will be followed for the full 5 days.
- 126 vi. At 48 h after taking initial dose of study drug/placebo. Study staff will visit patient to  
127 collect information and assess patient condition. Patients will be instructed to return to  
128 the clinic for additional management if, at 48 h after the first dose of the study  
129 drug/placebo, they report feeling the same as or worse than they did at enrollment.  
130 The physician will evaluate and treat the patient at his/her discretion. The patient will  
131 be instructed to discontinue the study drug/placebo if this has not yet been done. The  
132 patient will be followed for the full 5 days.
- 133 vii. At 5 days (120 h) after taking initial dose of study drug/placebo. Study staff will visit  
134 patient to collect information and assess patient condition. Patients will be instructed  
135 to return to the clinic for additional management if, at 120 h after the first dose of the  
136 study drug/placebo, they report feeling the same as or worse than they did at  
137 enrollment. The physician will evaluate and treat the patient at his/her discretion. The  
138 patient will be instructed to discontinue the study drug/placebo if this has not yet been  
139 done.

- 140 3. Group assignment. Within each provider's practice, eligible patients will be randomly assigned to the  
141 study drug or placebo. For each practice, we will generate a random sequence for assigning patients to  
142 study group in a 1:1 ratio. A single investigator will pre-label courses of study drug and placebo with the  
143 appropriate sequence before the study begins; this individual will maintain the assignment key and will  
144 not participate in data collection.
- 145 4. Masking. Allocation of the study drug and placebo will be concealed from providers, patients, and  
146 investigators until data are analyzed.
- 147 5. Sample size.
  - 148 a. Endpoint: Antibiotic use in active drug vs. placebo groups  
149 While accounting for stratified design and assuming 95% confidence, 1:1 enrollment of active  
150 drug and placebo patients, negligible drop-out, and antibiotic use among 10% of intervention

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151 patients, we would require 20 providers to enroll 20 patients each (i.e., 10 per treatment  
152 group), for a total of 400 patients, to achieve 80% power to detect a 10% difference in antibiotic  
153 use between groups (i.e., 20% of control patients use antibiotics) during the 5 days of  
154 observation.

## 155 ***Measurements***

- 156 1. Primary outcomes
  - 157 a. Use of antimicrobial medications by intervention group
    - 158 i. At 24 h after enrollment
    - 159 ii. At 48 h after enrollment
    - 160 iii. At 120 h (5 days) after enrollment
  - 161 2. Secondary outcomes
    - 162 a. Patients' perceived need for antimicrobial medications during first 48 h of observation
    - 163 b. Additional care obtained for diarrheal illness during first 48 h and 5 days of observation
      - 164 i. Use of antidiarrheal medications
      - 165 ii. Visits to other health professionals for diarrhea or complications of diarrhea
      - 166 iii. Expenditures on consultations and treatments for diarrheal illness
    - 167 c. Disease severity and duration
      - 168 i. Time to first formed stool
      - 169 ii. Number of stools during first 24/48 h of observation
      - 170 iii. Duration of abdominal pain
      - 171 iv. Duration of nausea
      - 172 v. Time to resolution of illness (any of the following symptoms: diarrhea, nausea, vomiting,  
173 abdominal pain)
      - 174 vi. Severity of all symptoms of illness
    - 175 d. Diarrhea etiologies and antimicrobial susceptibility patterns, with possible sub-group analysis by  
176 etiology if sample size permits
    - 177 e. Patient experience with the study drug
      - 178 i. Satisfaction with resolution of symptoms
      - 179 ii. Satisfaction with esthetics of study medication
      - 180 iii. Adverse effects
    - 181 f. Patient knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to diarrhea, water, hygiene and sanitation
    - 182 g. Characteristics and diarrhea treatments experienced by patients ineligible for the randomized,  
183 controlled trial
    - 184 h. Proportion of adult patients with diarrhea for whom providers recommend antibiotics (during  
185 screening)
    - 186 i. Additional secondary outcomes may be explored to better understand the data
  - 187 3. Possible confounders
    - 188 a. We will assess demographics, disease severity, and diarrhea management practices of  
189 potentially eligible but non-enrolled patients (attachments 1 and 4)

## 190 ***Schedule of study activities***

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- 191 1. Health care providers will be recruited into the study as staff and will be trained in study procedures.  
192 Basic information about these providers and their clinics will be collected (attachment 3).
- 193 2. On a pre-determined date, all clinics will begin to screen all adolescent and adult patients presenting  
194 with diarrhea for eligibility for the study (attachments 2, 4 and 5). We anticipate that each provider will  
195 see approximately 8 – 10 adolescent/adult patients with mild or moderate diarrhea each work day. For  
196 logistical reasons, we will enroll only the first eligible, consenting patient in each practice each day. We  
197 expect that a number of screened patients will be ineligible each day, and that restricting enrollment to  
198 the first eligible patient each day will not introduce substantial bias.
- 199 a. The screening questionnaire (attachment 4) will be completed by study staff for each  
200 adolescent/adult patient with a presenting complaint of diarrhea, regardless of the ultimate  
201 determination about eligibility.
- 202 b. HOPE staff will read the informed consent document (attachment 6) to eligible patients,  
203 including children age 15 – 17 years, and will ask each patient for written consent to participate.  
204 i. A parent or guardian of children aged 15 – 17 years old will be asked for written  
205 permission for the child to participate in the study.
- 206 3. If the patient is eligible and consents to participate, HOPE study staff will do the following at the time of  
207 enrollment:
- 208 a. Complete the clinical record with assistance of physician (attachment 5).  
209 b. Collect a stool specimen or rectal swab.  
210 c. Administer the first dose of the study drug/placebo and provide oral rehydration education and  
211 supplies (attachment 7).  
212 d. Ask to accompany the patient to his or her home to simplify locating the home during follow-up.
- 213 4. Immediately after enrollment, study staff will:
- 214 a. Transport the patient to his or her home and record the address and directions to the home.  
215 b. Complete the household questionnaire (attachment 8).  
216 c. Attempt to collect a stool specimen, if the patient was unable to provide one in the clinic.
- 217 5. Between 24 - 28 h, 48 – 52 h, and 120 – 126 h after enrollment, study staff will visit the patient to assess  
218 interim symptoms and activities (attachment 9).
- 219 a. At least 24 h in advance, the field worker will arrange a mutually agreeable time and location to  
220 re-assess the participant.
- 221 i. If the participant cannot be located during the scheduled follow-up visit, the field  
222 worker will attempt to learn where the participant is, and to complete the follow-up  
223 assessment within 4 hours of the scheduled meeting.
- 224 b. If patient's condition worsens within 24 h of enrollment, or if condition has not improved by 48  
225 or 120 h after enrollment, study staff will direct participant back to study physician for  
226 additional assessment and care. During these visits, physicians will not be asked to modify their  
227 recommendations for the study but will instead be asked to treat the patient as they feel  
228 necessary. Study staff will record details about the diagnosis and treatment obtained during this  
229 consultation (attachment 10).

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233 ***Data management and quality control***

234 Data will be recorded by study personnel on paper questionnaires. These will be delivered on a daily basis to  
235 the data manager, who will evaluate them for missing information and errors and will work with enumerators  
236 and the local study coordinator immediately to resolve any issues. Paper questionnaires will be stored in a  
237 secure cabinet at the HOPE offices. Data will be entered into a Microsoft Access database by trained personnel.  
238 Ten percent of questionnaires will be randomly selected for comparison against the electronic database; if more  
239 than 1% of fields differ, all questionnaires will be checked against the database and the database corrected as  
240 needed.

241 At the conclusion of report-writing, paper questionnaires will be destroyed.

242 **Ethics**

243 ***Informed consent***

244 Eligible patients will be invited to participate in the study. Study staff will read a consent form (attachment 2,  
245 Flesch-Kincaid Reading Level 7.6) to interested patients, who will be asked to sign the form if they agree to  
246 participate. Participants age 15 – 17 years will be asked to sign the consent form; a parent or guardian will also  
247 be asked for written consent for the child to participate. Before the study begins, the statement of informed  
248 consent will be translated into Urdu and any additional dialects our formative research determines will be  
249 needed (see Protocol 6425), and back-translated into English to ensure preservation of meaning.

250 ***Risk/Benefit***

251 Risk. The risks associated with participating in this study are minimal. The study will include only  
252 patients with mild to moderate acute diarrhea, which typically resolves within 2 – 5 days without  
253 treatment. Although clinicians in Pakistan appear to frequently recommend antibiotics for adults with  
254 diarrhea,[18] the World Health Organization states that antibiotics may be ineffective or harmful when  
255 used to treat diarrhea, and they should not be given routinely.[23] The World Health Organization does  
256 recommend considering antibiotic treatment among patients with cholera and severe dehydration, and  
257 among patients with dysentery.[23] However, there are few data demonstrating benefits following  
258 treatment of uncomplicated patients with dysentery, particularly in the context of rigorous medical  
259 follow-up. Although we will ask participants to refrain from using antibiotics to treat their diarrhea, we  
260 will include only participants with uncomplicated acute diarrhea, and we will assess them every 24 h for  
261 the first 48 h after enrollment. If they experience clinical deterioration during the first 24 h, they will be  
262 assessed by their physician and treated as required. They will also be assessed and treated without  
263 limitation by their physician if they do not experience improvement in their diarrhea during the first 48 h  
264 after enrollment. The risk to participants in this context is therefore minimal.

265 Randomly selected participants will receive a 48-h course of Pepto-Bismol (bismuth subsalicylate).  
266 Pepto-Bismol has been used as a treatment for diarrhea in the United States for nearly 100 years and  
267 has a strong safety record.[24] In the United States, it is available over-the-counter, and the Federal  
268 Drug Administration has approved its use among persons >12 years old. Adverse effects are typically  
269 mild and may include temporary darkening of stool and tongue, metallic taste in mouth, and

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270 constipation. In Pakistan, a similar medication called Bismol is available without a prescription; it  
271 contains 265 mg of bismuth subsalicylate per tablet.[25]

272 Benefit. There are several possible benefits to participating in the study. Study staff will assess patients'  
273 illness severity upon enrollment, daily for the ensuing 48 h, and at 5 days after enrollment. Patients will  
274 be referred for additional medical evaluation and care as needed. The provider consultation fee for the  
275 initial diarrhea visit will be waived for all participants (i.e., eligible patients who consent to participate in  
276 the study). Participants will receive counseling about appropriate hydration and diarrhea prevention and  
277 will be given sachets of oral rehydration solution to use at home as needed. While oral rehydration is  
278 universally recognized as the cornerstone of acute diarrhea management, anecdotal reports suggest  
279 that it is not always provided to adult diarrhea patients in Pakistan. Participants receiving the active  
280 study drug may also experience faster resolution of their symptoms than if they received standard  
281 care.[19] Finally, participants will receive a small meal as a supplement to their nutrition and in  
282 appreciation for their time.

### 283 ***Use of a placebo***

284 A placebo is necessary to understand both the clinical and behavioral effects of the study drug on patients.  
285 Data about the clinical effects of the study drug among adults infected with a broad array of diarrheal pathogens  
286 are limited. Data about the behavioral effects of receiving the study drug among a population accustomed to  
287 aggressive use of antimicrobial medications for diarrhea do not yet appear to exist. Thus, disentangling the  
288 effects of the study drug from the effects of a placebo is vital to develop effective and cost-effective programs to  
289 improve management of diarrhea, and to improve quality of life for patients with diarrhea.

### 290 ***Inclusion of children***

291  
292 Children suffer from higher rates of diarrheal disease and tend to seek medical attention for a greater  
293 proportion of their diarrheal illnesses than do adults. Therefore, interventions to manage diarrhea among  
294 children may have much greater reach in this population than among adults and the risks and benefits of such  
295 interventions among children should be studied. Because the study medication has been approved by the US  
296 FDA for use in, and in several countries is marketed to, children age 12 years and older, it is relevant to include  
297 children in this particular study. Including children will also expand the pool of eligible study participants,  
298 thereby increasing efficiency and decreasing the costs of conducting the study.

### 299 ***Confidentiality***

300 Patients will be assigned a unique study identification number upon enrollment in the study. This number will  
301 be used to link baseline, household, follow-up, and clinical information. The link between patient identifiers and  
302 the study identification number will be stored in a locked cabinet at the HOPE office. During data entry, patient  
303 identifiers will be removed and only the study identification number will be recorded. After completion of the data analysis  
304 and communication of findings to the participants, the linking information will be destroyed. Reports will contain only de-  
305 identified, summary information.

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307 ***Justice***

308 This study is intended to assess the health impact and acceptability of bismuth subsalicylate in a low-income  
309 setting with very high rates of diarrhea. Bismuth subsalicylate is currently available for purchase at low cost in  
310 Pakistan, so people in this community could immediately apply any positive findings.

311 ***Institutional review***

312 This protocol will be reviewed by the Institutional Review Boards of HOPE and the Centers for Disease Control and  
313 Prevention.

314 ***Reporting***

315 Results of the study will be summarized and distributed to all participating providers, who may wish to  
316 incorporate the findings in their practices. The aggregate results of this study will be presented to the community  
317 through educational programs developed by HOPE. Finally, results will be summarized and submitted for  
318 publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

319 ***Conflict of interest***

320 Procter & Gamble states that their purpose is to improve the lives of the world's consumers,[26] and Procter & Gamble is  
321 interested in knowing whether their products and services are effective in this capacity. Because it is a public, for-profit  
322 company, Procter & Gamble must develop products that consumers find useful enough to purchase regularly. Thus, this  
323 protocol will help the company understand more fully how its products further their mission to improve lives, while it may  
324 also help the company develop new marketing angles for their products.

325 ***Adverse events***

326 While we do not anticipate any adverse events to result from study activities (completion of a few brief questionnaires  
327 during a 5-day period, exposure to up to 16 doses of Pepto-Bismol or placebo tablets), adverse events will be reported in a  
328 timely manner to HOPE (Dr. Mubina Agboatwalla, 92-214-53-9393), CDC (Dr. Anna Bowen, 404-639-4636), and to the  
329 Pakistani and US IRBs in accordance with institutional procedures. Adverse events may include, but are not limited to,  
330 anaphylaxis, hospitalization, or death. We will routinely record patient experiences with the study drug/placebo tablets  
331 and symptoms of their diarrheal illness (attachment 7), but such reports will not be considered adverse events.

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334 **Investigators**

335 *CDC*

336 Anna Bowen, MD, MPH. Principal investigator. Conceived of study. Responsible for securing funding,  
337 drafting protocol, assisting with logistics of field implementation, analyzing study, and leading report  
338 writing.

339 Tracy Ayers, MS. Responsible for assisting with statistical aspects of protocol development, assisting  
340 with statistical analysis of study, and critically reviewing manuscript.

341 *HOPE*

342 Mubina Agboatwalla, MBBS. Responsible for providing input into protocol, overseeing field  
343 implementation, coordinating referral services for patients experiencing adverse events, and assisting  
344 with report writing.

345 Sohail Hussein, BS. Responsible for overseeing data management and quality control.

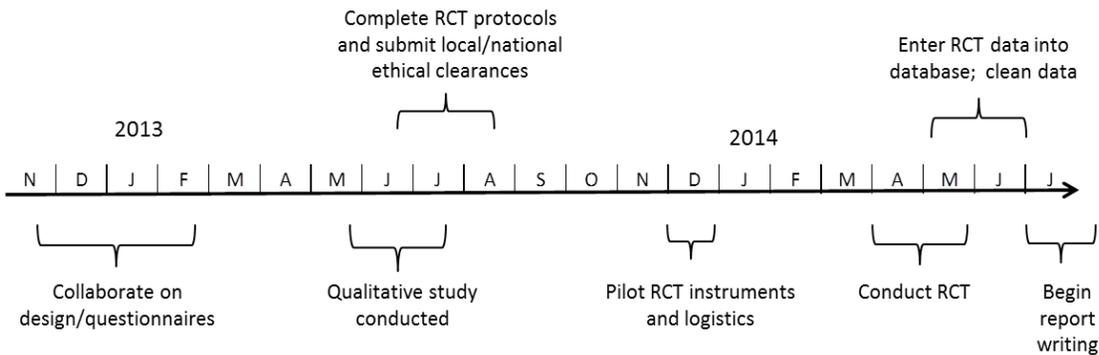
346 *P&G*

347 Adam Pitz, PhD, Jose Brum, MD and Quantitative Sciences Organization. Responsible for assisting with  
348 design of study, securing funding, and critically reviewing manuscript.

349

350

351 **Timeline**



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353 **References**

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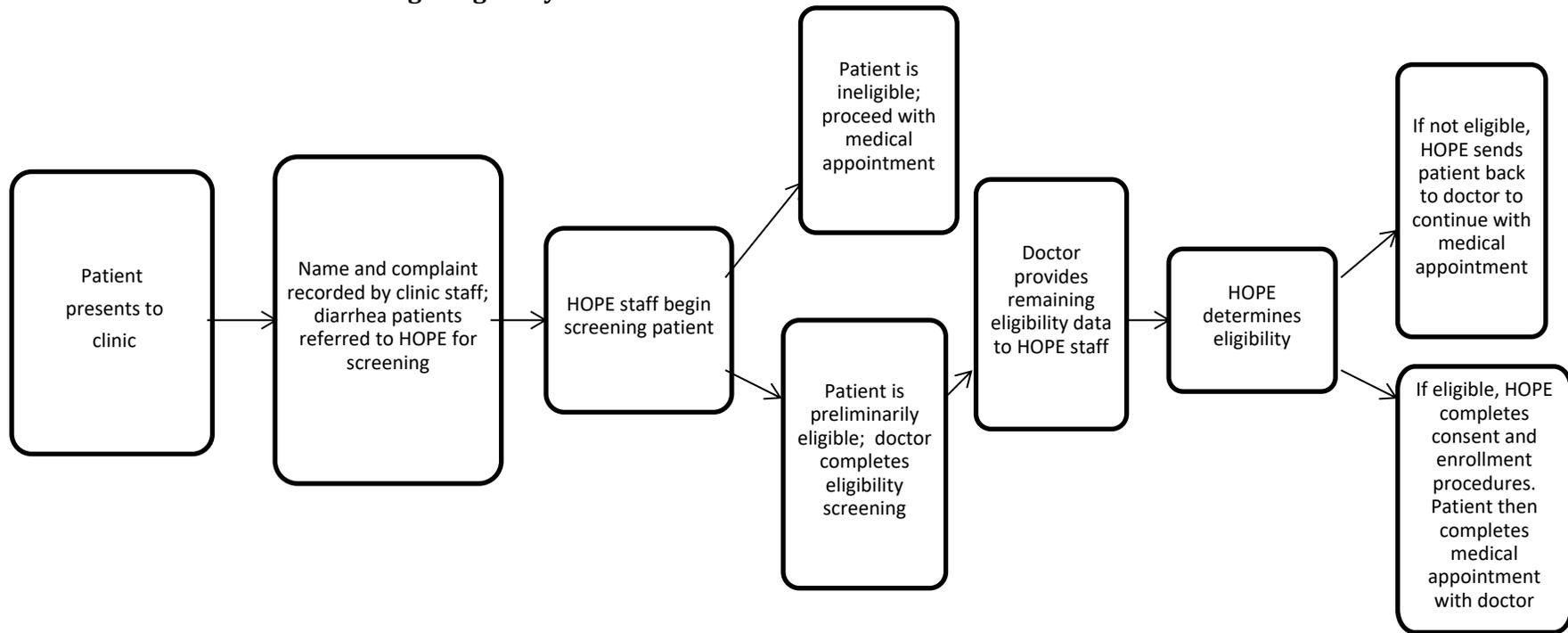
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414 **Attachment 1: Patient flow through eligibility assessment**  
415



416 **Attachment 2: Consent for participation**

417 Dear sir or madam,

418 Many people in Pakistan and other places become sick with diarrhea each year, and we are doing a research study to  
419 understand how to take better care of them.

420 We would like to ask you to join this study. If you decide to join, we will pay the consultation fee to your doctor today.  
421 Your doctor will tell you about how to take care of your illness, and will give you some ORS, or oral rehydration solution, to  
422 take home. The doctor will also give you some tablets for free. Half of the people who join the study will get tablets that  
423 might help you feel better faster when you have diarrhea. This medicine is similar to Bismol and it has been used to help  
424 people with diarrhea in many parts of the world for decades. The other people in the study will get tablets that look the  
425 same, but they don't have any medicine in them. The kind of tablet you get will be decided by chance-- for example, by  
426 flipping a coin. We will also ask you to give us some stool. We will test it for germs that might be making you sick. We will  
427 tell your doctor the results so he or she can be sure you got the right treatments, but you might be feeling better before the  
428 tests are done.

429 After you are finished with the doctor, we will go with you to your house and give you some snacks for energy while you are  
430 sick. We will pay for the trip back to your house today. We will come back to your house each day for 2 days, and also after  
431 5 days, to see how you are feeling. Each visit will take about 15 minutes. We ask that you keep track of how often you pass  
432 stools during this time so we can understand how the medicine is working. What we learn can help other people with  
433 diarrhea in the future. There are very few risks involved in the study, but the tablets might make your stool and tongue  
434 look very dark or black for a few days. This does not harm you and it goes away by itself. You do not need to pay anything  
435 to join the study.

436 We will label every survey with a code number rather than your name, and all of the surveys will be kept private. Your  
437 name will not be used in any report.

438 You may choose whether or not to join the study. You may skip any questions you do not wish to answer, and you may  
439 stop participating in the study at any time.

440 The results of the study will help us understand how to help improve people's health. After the study is finished, we will  
441 share the results with people and doctors in your community.

442 Health-Oriented Preventive Education, or HOPE, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Procter  
443 & Gamble Company, and your physician are working together on this study. If you have any questions about this study or  
444 about your rights as a participant, you may contact Dr. Mubina Agboatwalla at 92-333-213-1960. If you feel harmed or  
445 have questions about your rights as a study participant, you may contact the HOPE IRB at 02-13-224-3889.

446 Agreement to participate

447 Would you like to join the study (circle one)? Yes No

448 We may want to contact you again in the future for a related or follow-up study. Do you want us to contact you in the  
449 future for a related or follow-up study? Yes No

450 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date (dd/mm/yy) \_\_\_\_\_

451 For parent/guardian of participants 15 – 17 years old

452 I agree to allow my child to participate in this study. Yes No

453 Signature of parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date (dd/mm/yy) \_\_\_\_\_

454 **Attachment 3: Script for distributing ORS and study drug/placebo**

455 **Read:**

456 When we have diarrhea, our bodies lose more water than usual. When we lose too much water, or get  
457 dehydrated, our bodies can't work normally. When you are dehydrated, you usually have a dry mouth, feel  
458 thirsty and urinate less often, and you might get dizzy or light-headed. We can usually replace the water we lose  
459 during diarrhea by drinking. If the doctor told you that you are dehydrated, you will need to drink more than  
460 usual for another day or two, plus drink about a cup of fluid every time you have a loose stool. If your stomach  
461 is upset or you have been vomiting, it is easier to drink small amounts, but you will need to do this more often.  
462 For example, instead of drinking 2 cups all at once, you may have less vomiting if you drink ¼ cup every 5-10  
463 minutes for an hour.

464 Some drinks work better than others. Coffee, juice, soda, and strong tea do not usually work very well to  
465 prevent or cure dehydration. Clear fluids, like water or weak tea or soup, work better. Oral rehydration  
466 solutions work especially well. I will give you some ORS sachets to take home. Have you used ORS before?  
467 [Explain how to prepare ORS and give 2 sachets.]

468 Now I will give you the study tablets. Here are 2 to take right now. You can chew them. [Break seal on bottle  
469 and give 2 tablets.] For the next 2 days, that is, 48 hours from now, you should take 2 tablets every hour as long  
470 as you are having symptoms of diarrhea. You can take up to 16 tablets during the next 24 hours (or in other  
471 words, until this time tomorrow). You can do the same thing during the next 24 hours. Do not take more than  
472 16 tablets per day. These instructions are on the bottle to help remind you. [Give participant the bottle and  
473 show him/her the directions. Check whether the patient can explain to you how to take the tablets.] Do you  
474 have any questions about how to take the tablets?

475 As we discussed before, these tablets might cause your stool and even your tongue to look dark grey or black.  
476 This won't hurt you, and it will go away by itself after a few days.

477 I would like you to try to keep track of when you pass stools during the study, so for 5 days. When I visit you  
478 tomorrow, I will ask how many times you passed stool, when this happened, and whether it was diarrhea or  
479 normal stool. This might not be easy, but please try to remember. Some people like to keep track by making a  
480 tally on a piece of paper, or by adding 1 dry bean to a pile each time a stool is passed.

481 It is very important that I visit you 24 hours from now to see how you are doing. I hope that you will be feeling  
482 better. However, if your diarrhea is worse then, I will help you return to this clinic. If you are feeling much  
483 worse at any time before I visit you, please come back to this clinic for more care.

484 Now I would like to help you get back home, and give you a small meal if you are able to eat now. We would  
485 also like to offer you a free test of your stool, which you could provide in a stool cup in the privacy of your own  
486 home. Do you have any questions? [Arrange to go to participant's home, collect household information and  
487 stool specimen, and provide incentives.]

488

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