# Clinical Update

## Oral Therapy and The Use of Mother's Milk for the Treatment of Neonates

#### Oropharyngeal Administration of Colostrum

Extremely/Very Low Birthweight Babies

## Oral Therapy

#### Oropharyngeal Administration of Mother's Milk

NPO and Non-Orally Feeding Babies Oral Hygiene

All Orally and Non-Orally Feeding Babies

## **Expected Benefits**

#### Exposure to Biofactors/Immune Agents

Coat the oral cavity with sIgA, interleukins lactoferrin, lysozyme and oligosaccharides.

#### **Developmental Support**

Introduce taste & smell of mother's milk to encourage maternal bonding, development of non-nutritive sucking, and calming/soothing.

#### Infection Prevention

Regular cleaning and moisturizing help reduce the possibility of healthcare-acquired infection and maintain good oral tissue health.

## **Expected Outcomes**

Reduced time to oral feeds

Reduced time to enteral feeds

Shorter length of stay

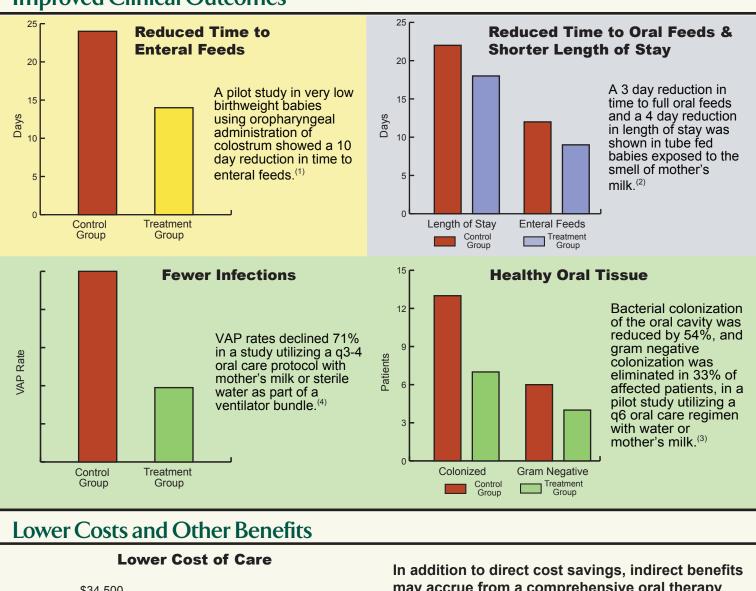
Healthy oral tissue

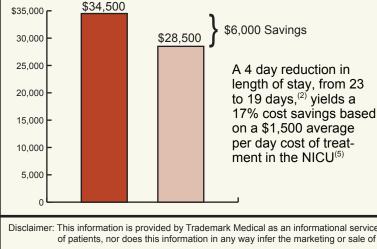
Fewer infections

Lower cost of care

### The Potential Impact of Oral Therapy

#### Improved Clinical Outcomes





#### may accrue from a comprehensive oral therapy program:

- Oral aversion may be mitigated by introducing the taste of mother's milk.
- Non-nutritive sucking may be stimulated.
- Maternal bonding is encouraged both by acclimating the baby to the mother's smell, and by parental participation in oral therapy.
- Babies may be calmed and comforted by mother's milk.

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