Table 2

Key aspects of examination which may indicate alternative diagnoses in a child with diarrhoea and vomiting

Examination	Clinical signs	Possible alternative diagnoses
Temperature	>38°C in infants up to 3 months and >39°C in older children	Non-enteric infections such as urinary tract infection, otitis media, or meningitis
Respiratory rate	Shortness of breath or tachypnoea	Pneumonia
Conscious state	Drowsiness or irritability	Meningitis
Abdominal examination	Abdominal distension with significant tenderness and/or rebound	Bowel obstruction, ischaemia or intussusception