

7. MANUFACTURING PROCEDURE

Whether ORS is produced in a hospital on a very small scale (see Fig. 16), or industrially in large quantities, the basic procedure remains the same. The only difference is the requirement for space, particularly for storing raw materials, and the method of packing ORS, which for large quantities is normally most efficiently done by mechanical means on suitable equipment. This section focuses only on procedures that are directly related to ORS production, which are framed in black on the flow chart in Fig. 15. Other linked operations, such as storage and quality control of raw materials, are described, respectively, in sections 5 and 9.



FIG. 16 PREPARING ORS IN A HOSPITAL

7.1 Identity test

If a raw material arriving in the ORS production unit has already been analysed for its identity and quality by a government-owned or central quality control laboratory, and has been released for production, the identity test indicated on the flow chart may be considered as optional. The same applies in places where goods have been analysed in house and released for production. However, if the goods have not previously been analyzed or quality control facilities are not available, an identity test is strongly recommended.

7.2 Drying

After prolonged storage in hot and humid climates, the raw materials may have absorbed a substantial amount of moisture, and have a water content higher than the indicated limit of 1%. The use of such ingredients for the manufacture of ORS-bicarbonate may result in accelerated decomposition. Therefore, if a raw material containing water in excess of the indicated limit is to be used for this particular composition, it is preferable to dry it at the recommended temperature, as follows: