

# Performance of community health workers in treating children with pneumonia, diarrhea, and malaria - a cross-sectional study in Uganda

## 1. What were the findings/results in 3-5 bullets

- Stratified random sampling was used to select 80 CHWs from 13 sub-counties in 5 districts in Midwest Ugand. 15,468 patient records from 2012 were collected and entered into EpiData and analyzed using SPSS.
- 43% of cases seen received a single diagnosis (malaria, pneumonia or diarrhoea) whereas 2% received a triple diagnosis.
- 81.5% of all patients with malaria received appropriate doses of antimalarials. When comparing single (malaria alone) versus triple illness case management (malaria in combination with pneumonia and diarrhoea) 84.1% and 70.1% received a correct dose of antimalarials, respectively. This represents a decline of 14% (95% CI 8.7–19.4,  $p=0.000$ ).
- Of the pneumonia patients, 89.2% received an appropriate dose of antibiotics. Of those with pneumonia as a single illness, 83.9% received an appropriate dose of antibiotics, compared to 77.9% of those getting triple illness case management (pneumonia in combination with malaria and diarrhoea). The decline was 4.2% (95% CI -1.0 to 9.4,  $p=0.100$ ).
- Of the diarrhea patients, 2.3% received an appropriate dose of zinc and ORS. Of those with diarrhea as a single illness, 2.3% received an appropriate dose of zinc and ORS compared to 5.4% receiving triple illness case management (diarrhoea in combination with malaria and pneumonia)

## 2. How the findings have influenced implementation in your country of study and any lessons learned

- The use of zinc for diarrhoea has been re-emphasised in supervision and refresher trainings.

## 3. How the findings can be applied to other countries/settings

- More complex treatment guidelines may lead to inappropriate treatment

## 4. Is there additional evidence or implementation knowledge gaps that have become evident from this research?