

Table 3: Comparison of potential background risk factors for disease severity among individual diseases (n= 483)

Risk factor for disease severity	AOR (All cases)	AOR (Malaria cases)	AOR (Pneumonia cases)	AOR (Diarrhoea cases)
Caretaker's Education No formal education Primary education Post-primary education	6.6 (2.7-15.8) 2.0 (1.0-4.0) ref	§	1.8 (0.7-4.7) 1.7 (0.7-3.9) ref	3.5 (0.6-21.4) 2.2 (0.4-10.6) ref
Caretaker's SES Low Middle High	1.5 (0.9-2.6) 1.9 (1.2-3.2) ref	1.2 (0.4-3.7) 1.0 (0.4-2.8) ref	1.8 (0.9-3.8) 2.2 (1.1-4.2)* ref	1.7 (0.6-4.8) 1.2 (0.4-3.5) ref
No. of own alive children 1 child 2-3 children 4 or more children	ref 1.7 (1.1-2.7) 2.5 (1.4-4.5)	ref 3.2 (1.0-10.4) 8.5 (2.3-30.6)	ref 0.7 (0.4-1.4) 1.5 (0.6-3.3)	ref 2.0 (0.8-4.9) 1.1 (0.4-3.2)
Home-hospital travel time 0-59min 60-119min 120+ min	ref 1.4 (0.9-2.3) 2.1 (1.3-3.4)	ref 0.4 (0.1-1.5) 0.9 (0.3-2.9)	ref 1.5 (0.8-2.7) 1.6 (0.9-3.1)	ref 2.1 (0.7-6.2) 3.9 (1.4-10.9)
First Rx PCM alone for 24hrs or more No Yes	1.8 (1.2-2.7) ref	0.9 (0.4-2.2) ref	1.8 (1.1-3.3) ref	1.7 (0.7-4.4) ref
Source of first Rx other than PCM Home/local or drug shop Private hospital Public hospital	3.2 (1.9-5.2) 1.9 (0.8-4.8) ref	§	2.4 (1.3-4.5)* 1.7 (0.5-5.5) ref	1.2 (0.5-2.8) 0.3 (0.1-1.5) ref
Use of nearer PHC facility No Yes	ref 5.2 (3.0-9.1)	ref 4.2 (1.7-10.5)	ref 5.2 (2.3-11.9)	ref 4.4 (1.2-15.8)

PCM = paracetamol. Rx = treatment. PHC = primary health care.

AOR** Adjusted odds ratio; all other factors are adjusted, one at a time, for child's *Age* and *Sex*, and Caretakers *Education* and *socio-economic status (SES)*. The four factors used for adjustment were each adjusted for the other three.

§ - Numbers too small to enable any comparison across groups.