

Signs of severe illness in the guidelines and how they were operationalized in the survey

1. “Cerebral dysfunction and cerebral malaria” in the guidelines was defined as: history of convulsions, observed convulsions, lethargy, or unconsciousness.
2. “Disseminated intravascular coagulopathy” was defined as: spontaneous bleeding or bruising.
3. “Hemoglobinuria” was defined as: dark urine.
4. “Hepatic dysfunction” was defined as: jaundice.
5. “Hyperthermia” was defined as: temperature $>41^{\circ}$ C.
6. “Pulmonary edema” was defined as: respiratory distress.
7. “Renal insufficiency” was defined as: little or no urine.
8. “Severe anemia” was defined as: severe palmar pallor.
9. “Shock” was defined as: cyanosis, nail bed capillary refill >2 seconds, pulse that is weak and >110 beats/minute, or systolic blood pressure <80 mm Hg (for adults only).

Other causes of febrile illness and how they were operationalized in the survey

1. “Dysentery” in the guidelines was defined as: diarrhea and bloody stools.
2. “Hepatitis” was defined as: jaundice.
3. “Influenza-like illness” was defined as: nasal or sinus congestion.
4. “Measles” was defined as: measles rash or Koplic spots.
5. “Otitis” was defined as: ear pain.
6. “Pneumonia” was defined as: cough and either fast breathing or respiratory distress. Fast breathing was defined as respiratory rates of ≥ 50 breaths/minute for ages <12 months, ≥ 40 breaths/minute for ages 12–59 months, ≥ 30 breaths/minute for ages 5–13 years, and ≥ 20 breaths/minute for ages >13 years.
7. “Urinary tract infection” was defined as: difficult or painful urination.

Note. The following signs of severe illness in the national policy were excluded in the survey analysis because testing could not be performed in the field (most health facilities also lacked the tests): hyperparasitemia ($>100,000$ parasites/mm³), hypoglycemia, hyponatremia, and metabolic acidosis.