

# Resource 2: health worker training manuals and card game

(from REACT study in Cameroon)



[www.actconsortium.org/StarterKitResource2](http://www.actconsortium.org/StarterKitResource2)

## What are the health worker training manuals?

These training manuals were designed to support the introduction of malaria rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) in Cameroon. They were used to train health workers at government and mission hospitals and health centres. The manuals have three modules each:

### MANUAL 1. ENSURING APPROPRIATE TREATMENT OF UNCOMPLICATED MALARIA

- Module 1. Malaria Diagnosis
- Module 2. Rapid Diagnostic Tests
- Module 3. Malaria Treatment

These modules were delivered in a **one-day** workshop, with seminars led by facilitators and a practical session on how to use an RDT. This is a basic training with a focus on health workers' knowledge of malaria treatment guidelines.

### MANUAL 2. IMPROVING QUALITY OF CARE FOR MANAGEMENT OF SUSPECTED MALARIA

- Module 4. Adapting to Change
- Module 5. Professionalism
- Module 6. Communicating Effectively

These modules are supplementary and were delivered over **two days**, using participatory methods such as small-group exercises, games and drama. They provide an enhanced training programme which intended to change health workers' practice by reinforcing key messages about malaria diagnosis and treatment and developing interpersonal skills.

Each manual has a version for participants and a version for facilitators. The facilitator's manuals contain additional guidance on how to deliver the training material.

## What is the card game?

One of the exercises in the supplementary training was a card game designed to reinforce the clinical guidelines on malaria diagnosis and treatment. The game involves collecting combinations of cards that represent appropriate treatment of febrile illness.

The Facilitator's Manual on 'Improving quality of care for management of suspected malaria' includes Instructions on how to play the game.



## Who is the target audience?

Front line health workers at government and mission hospitals, and health centres.

## What does this resource consist of?

Four trainer and participant workshop manuals, and one card game.

## What language is this resource available in?

The manuals are available in English, French and Portuguese. The card game is available in English and French.

## What approach has this resource taken?

The modules use participatory methods such as small-group exercises, card games, drama and role-play. These modules reinforce key messages about malaria diagnosis and treatment, develop interpersonal skills, and were intended to change health workers' practice.

We piloted and adapted the interventions, and we trained the trainers before the final implementation.

## Where has this resource been used?

Cameroon. We conducted a similar study in Nigeria.

## Was the development of this resource based on formative research?

Yes. We carried out a literature review combined with formative research to determine patterns of malaria diagnosis and treatment. We used these findings and reviewed previous interventions to identify possible strategies for changing the behaviour of clinicians when diagnosing and treating uncomplicated malaria.

You can read more about the research that informed the development of this tool at:

- Achonduh O, Mbacham W, Mangham-Jefferies L, Cundill B, Chandler C, Pamen-Ngako J, et al. **Designing and implementing interventions to change clinicians' practice in the management of uncomplicated malaria: lessons from Cameroon.** *Malaria Journal.* 2014;13(1):204.

## Has this resource been evaluated?

Yes. We found that those undertaking the more interactive, supplementary training programme reduced malaria overdiagnosis by half, helping to prevent the wastage of antimalarials. Only 31% of patients in this group received a malaria drug that they didn't need, compared to 52% in the group undertaking the basic programme and 84% in the control group which represented the standard practice.

You can read more at:

- Mangham-Jefferies L, Wiseman V, Achonduh OA, Drake TL, Cundill B, Onwujekwe O, et al. **Economic Evaluation of a Cluster Randomized Trial of Interventions to Improve Health Workers' Practice in Diagnosing and Treating Uncomplicated Malaria in Cameroon.** *Value in Health.*
- Mbacham WF, Mangham-Jefferies L, Cundill B, Achonduh OA, Chandler CIR, Ambebila JN, et al. **Basic or enhanced clinician training to improve adherence to malaria treatment guidelines: a cluster-randomised trial in two areas of Cameroon.** *The Lancet Global Health.* 2014;2(6):e346-e58.

## Can this resource be used in other contexts?

This resource has the potential to be used in different contexts. The use of its content for all non-commercial education, training and information purposes is encouraged, including translation, quotation and reproduction, in any medium\*.

We suggest that before this resource is used or adapted in any way, formative research is done to understand the local context. This is important because the nature of malaria diagnosis and treatment practices, as well as the knowledge and perceptions of health workers and community members, varies from place to place.

Based on the formative research, the resource may be adapted or changed in order to fit the intended audience and the specific context in which it will be used. We suggest the resource is then piloted with its target audience in order to improve it before it is implemented. This will help to maximise the likelihood that the resources have the desired effects.

Once in place, we suggest you evaluate this resource in order to understand its potential impact and effects. You should also share the results as widely as possible in order to help guide and inform other communicators wishing to use the resource.

## How should this resource be acknowledged?

ACT Consortium, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (2010). The REACT Facilitator and Participant Manuals on Improving Malaria Diagnosis and Treatment and on Improving the Quality of Care. Available at [www.actconsortium.org/REACTCameroonmanuals](http://www.actconsortium.org/REACTCameroonmanuals)

## Who should be contacted to request permission to make adaptations to this resource?

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### \*How should this tool be used?

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## Where can I find more information?

You can find more information about this study, including publications, training materials, videos and press releases at: [www.actconsortium.org/REACTCameroon](http://www.actconsortium.org/REACTCameroon)

