

Post-discharge malaria chemoprevention (PDMC) for children with severe anemia

This note last updated: September 2021

Current status: Revisit 2022

In areas with high malaria prevalence, children treated in hospitals for severe anemia may be at increased risk of death after being discharged due to new or recurrent malaria.¹ Post-discharge malaria chemoprevention is the provision of antimalarials to these children.²

The World Health Organization (WHO) does not provide post-discharge guidance in its recommendations for seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC) or in its guidelines for malaria.³ Our understanding is that WHO may be considering guidance on PDMC in the near future, and we anticipate implementation opportunities will be limited until WHO provides that guidance, though we have not thoroughly investigated this.

Because of our impression that there will be limited funding opportunities, we do not plan to do further work on PDMC for children with severe anemia at this time. We plan to revisit this if WHO provides updated guidance. We would also be willing to consider promising opportunities if they came to our attention in the meantime.

¹ "Severe anemia contributes substantially to childhood mortality and is a leading cause of hospital admissions in areas of Africa in which malaria is endemic. . . . [I]n areas with intense malaria transmission, a substantial, potentially preventable component of the burden occurs in the first few months after discharge, with more deaths occurring during this time than during the in-hospital period. . . . In areas with intense malaria transmission, a delay in hematologic recovery because of new or recurrent malaria infection is common and may contribute to the high burden of adverse health outcomes after discharge." [Kwambai et al 2020](#), Pg. 2243.

² "Post-discharge malaria chemoprevention (PMC) is the intermittent administration of full treatment courses of antimalarial to children recovering from severe anaemia." [Nkosi-Gondwe et al. 2018](#), Pg. 1.

³ Current recommendation for SMC: [WHO Policy Recommendation: Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention \(SMC\) for Plasmodium falciparum malaria control in highly seasonal transmission areas of the Sahel sub-region in Africa](#), 2012.

Current guidelines on malaria: [WHO Guidelines for Malaria. 2021](#).