

# Management practices for pneumonia: a mixed-methods survey

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## Introduction

- Pneumonia is a leading cause of death worldwide
- Disproportionately affects low- and middle-income countries (LMIC)
- **Aim:** to describe pneumonia case management practices of MSF-OCA healthcare workers (HCWs) for patients in three age categories: adults, 5-15 & <5 years

## Methods

- Mixed-methods cross-sectional audit
- Conducted July – August 2021
- a) Structured surveys – descriptive analysis
- b) Semi-structured interviews – thematic analysis

## Results

- 32 HCWs in 9 countries survey responses
- 10 HCWs interviewed

### 1) Diagnosis

- 44.8% reported COVID-testing available in their facility
- 41.2% HCWs reported no routine investigations performed for pneumonia admitted to hospital
- Pulse oximetry available in 37.5% outpatients

### 2) Referrals

- Lack of communication between secondary facility back to referrer

# Significant Gaps in Pneumonia Case Management

## Severity assessment: COVID-19 testing and pulse oximetry not routinely done

## Diagnostics: Reliance on clinical diagnosis and limited testing for complications or alternative diagnoses in inpatients

## Management: Limited oxygen capacity in several sites

## Missed opportunity: vaccinations rarely offered to pneumonia cases



### 3) Management

- 90% of outpatient HCWs reported regular use of amoxicillin
- Some sites listed drugs not indicated in guidelines
- Vaccination rarely offered to patients

### 4 Oxygen Therapy

- Oxygen concentrators available in **all** inpatient facilities
- 2 patients could be provided oxygen at any one time in Ethiopia projects
- **29.4%** of HCWs received **no training** on the use of oxygen therapy

### 5) Thematic analysis: Challenges and Barriers

Geopolitical and Organisational Structures

Resource Limitations

High workload and time pressure

Need for improved clinical knowledge and acumen

## Discussion

- Limited testing for complications / alternative diagnoses in inpatients
- Overall good compliance with guidance on antibiotics with some inappropriate use
- No COVID-19 testing availability in majority sites
- Effective pneumonia practice difficult due to broader underlying issues
- Missed opportunity to include vaccination

## Acknowledgements

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