Additional file 2: SPARS dispensing and prescribing indicators, associated measures, and definitions

Indicator (#)	Measure number and description	Definition		
Dispensing quality				
Dispensing time (1)	% of facilities with average acceptable dispensing time for 6 patients	Calculated per facility as average time with >60 sec. scored acceptable (yes): # of facilities with acceptable dispensing time/ # of facilities * 100		
Packaging material (2)	 % of facilities with dispensing envelopes % of facilities with appropriate and clean containers 	Calculated in entire sample as:		
Dispensing equipment (3)	 % of facilities with spatula or spoon % of facilities with tablet counting tray or similar % of facilities with tablets counted using spatula or gloves % of facilities with graduated measuring cylinder 	# of facilities that meet each criterion/ # of facilities * 100		
Services available in dispensing area (4)	 8. % of facilities with chairs/benches in dispensing area 9. % of facilities with privacy during dispensing 10. % of facilities where patients can wash hands 11. % of facilities with drinking water accessible to patients 			
Patient care (5)	For 5 patients exiting the facility: 12. % of patients with all prescribed medicines dispensed 13. % of patients knowing dose of medicines to take 14. % of patients knowing how frequently to take medicines 15. % of patients knowing how long to take the medicines 16. % of patients knowing why they got the medicines	Calculated per facility as: # of patients who meet each criterion/ 5 * 100		
Labelling (6)	For one medicine package from 5 exiting patients: 17. % of medicines labelled with medicines name 18. % of medicines labelled with strength 19. % of medicines labelled with quantity 20. % of medicines labelled with date 21. % of medicines labelled with dose 22. % of medicines labelled with patient name 23. % of medicines labelled with facility name	Calculated per facility as: # of medicines that meet each criterion/ 5 * 100		
Rationing of Antibiotics (7)	Assess antibiotics dispensed for 5 patients 24. % with all prescribed amoxicillin dispensed 25. % with all prescribed cotrimoxazole dispensed	Calculated per facility as: # of patients who meet each criterion/ 5 * 100		
Prescribing quality				
Prescription recording (1)	For last 10 patients recorded in dispensing/prescribing log: 26. % of prescriptions with date recorded 27. % of prescriptions with location of treatment recorded 28. % of prescriptions with diagnosis recorded 29. % of prescriptions with medicines name recorded 30. % of prescriptions with prescriber name recorded 31. % of prescriptions with amount prescribed recorded 32. % of prescriptions with amount dispensed recorded	Calculated per facility as: # of prescriptions that meet each criterion/ 5 * 100		

For 20 patients in dispensing/prescribing log: 33. Average # of medicines prescribed #33: total # of medicines #33: total # of medicines #33: total # of medicines #34,38: # of medicines #0 patients			
(2) 34. % of medicines prescribed by generic name 35. % of patients with no antibiotic prescribed 36. % of patients with no injection prescribed 37. % of patients with diagnosis recorded 38. % of medicines on essential medicines list of Uganda 38. % of medicines on essential medicines list of Uganda 38. % of medicines on essential medicines list of Uganda 38. % of medicines on essential medicines list of Uganda 38. % of medicines on essential medicines list of Uganda 38. % of medicines on essential medicines list of Uganda 38. % of patients with watery (non-bloody) diarrhoea in dispensing/prescribing log: 39. % of patients prescribed ORS and no antibiotics 41. % of patients prescribed ORS and no antibiotics 41. % of patients prescribed ORS and no antibiotics 42. % of patients prescribed ORS and no antibiotics 43. % of patients with appropriate prescription for diarrhoea 42. % of patients with appropriate prescription for diarrhoea 43. % of patients with appropriate prescription for diarrhoea 45. % of patients prescribed on antibiotics 46. % of patients prescribed on antibiotics 46. % of patients prescribed cough or cold medicines 48. % of patients prescribed cough or cold medicines 48. % of patients with appropriate prescription for cough/cold** STG for malaria (5) For 10 patients with functional lab for malaria testing For 10 patients diagnosed with fever or malaria: 50. % of facilities with malaria RDT or smear conducted 51. % of patients receiving artemisinin combination therapy 53. % of patients receiving unine tablet 54. % of patients receiving unine tablet 55. % of patients receiving no antibiotics 56. % of patients receiving no antibiotics 57. % of patients receiving no antibiotics 58. % of patients receiving no antibiotics 59. % of patients receiving no antibiotics 50. % of patients receiving paracetamol/antipyretics	Rational	For 20 patients in dispensing/prescribing log:	Calculated per facility as:
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57. % patients with appropriate treatment for malaria***		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
		57. % patients with appropriate treatment for malaria***	

^{*}Appropriate prescribing for diarrhoea is prescription of oral rehydration salt with and without zinc.

^{**} Appropriate prescription for cough/cold (mild or moderate upper respiratory tract infection) is that no antibiotics are given, Antipyretic/analgesic or cough /cold medicines might be given.

^{***} Appropriate treatment for malaria is prescription of artemisinin combination therapy or Quinine tablets but not both. Paracetamol might or might not be given but no antibiotics and no sulfadoxine/pyrimethamine.