

Supplement 1: Topic list semi-structured interviews

Overarching questions

1. How do you notice your child has a fever?
2. What impact does the fever have on you as a parent?
3. How do you judge disease severity?
 - *Reassuring signs*
 - *Alarming signs*
4. How do you classify your child as healthy, ill or extremely ill?
5. How did your ability of judging disease severity develop?
6. What are signs and symptoms that make you decide to seek medical help?

In-depth questions judging disease severity

General appearance

7. How do you judge skin changes?
 - *Colour*
 - *Rash*
8. How do you notice pain?

Behaviour and consciousness

9. What do you see from the behaviour of a sick child?
 - *Playing*
 - *Walking / crawling*
 - *Responding*
 - *Being comfortable*
 - *Crying*
10. What is your definition of lethargy?

Breathing

11. How do you notice shortness of breath / breathing difficulties?
 - *Indrawings*
 - *Sounds*
 - *Respiration rate*

Dehydration

12. How do you notice that your child is dehydrated?
 - *Crying with tears*
 - *Dry mucous membranes*
 - *Drinking or urinating less*
13. What do you consider as urinating too little?
 - *Gradation: less, severely less*
14. What do you consider as drinking too little?
 - *Gradation: less, severely less*

Concluding

15. Is there anything else you would like to add?