

REINFORCING ADHERENCE TO NATIONAL GUIDELINES ON MALARIA CASE MANAGEMENT IN PRIVATELY OWNED HEALTH FACILITIES: A CASE STUDY FROM OYO, NIGERIA

Chinwe Nweze¹, Abimbola Olayami², Augustine Firima¹, Arja Huestis⁴, Olusesan Ishola-Gbenla², Thomas Hall⁴, Allan Were⁴, Esther Ayandipo³, Tosin Orhorhamreru³, Jay Okpokpolom³, Olatayo Abikoye², IniAbasi Inglas², Uchenna Nwokenna², Rosemary Foluke Adeyemo⁵, Famade Titilayo⁶, Erkwagh Dagba⁷, Veronica Momoh⁷

Introduction

High-quality health services necessitate delivering the right care and correct treatment at the right time, tailored to the needs and preferences of service users while minimizing harm and resource waste. In Nigeria, private health facilities (PHFs) account for at least a third of the country's 34,000 health institutions, and 50% of patients with a fever seek care in highly unregulated privately owned health establishments (NMEP, 2018). PHFs represent 48% of all health facilities in Oyo State and they sometimes do not have updated skills and knowledge required for quality care. Given this large proportion of PHFs, it becomes necessary to implement strategies to strengthen the adherence to national guidelines on malaria case management facilities in the state. This study aims to examine the effect of implementation of private sector engagement (PSE) strategy on the quality of malaria care at 128 PHFs in Oyo State.

Methods

A PSE strategy was developed by the state. Subsequently, a 14-man PSE committee was formed to oversee the implementation of the PSE strategy. A total of 128 high-volume PHFs were selected across the state. Two clinicians at each PHF (n=256) were trained on malaria case management and prevention of malaria in pregnancy following the most recently updated guidelines with supportive supervision to reinforce the training.

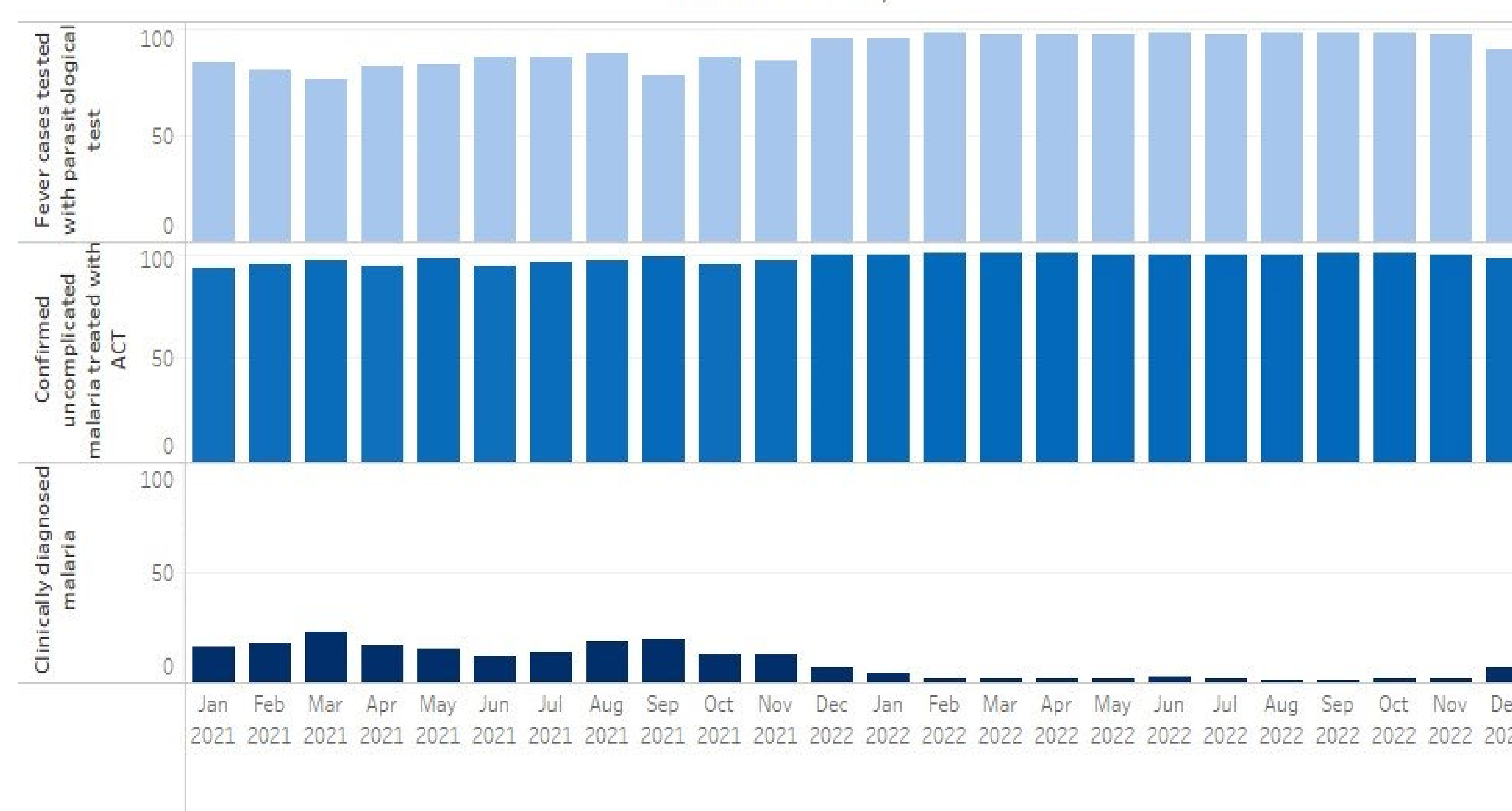


Figure 1. Group exercise during the development of PSE strategy

¹United States President's Malaria Initiative for States, Management Sciences for Health, Cross River, Nigeria; ²United States President's Malaria Initiative for States, Management Sciences for Health, Abuja, Nigeria; ³United States President's Malaria Initiative for States, Management Sciences for Health, Oyo, Nigeria; ⁴United States President's Malaria Initiative for States, Management Sciences for Health, Arlington, United States of America; ⁵State Malaria Elimination Program, Ministry of Health, Cross River, Nigeria; ⁶United States President's Malaria Initiative for States, Bayan Global Oyo, Nigeria; ⁷United States President's Malaria Initiative, USAID, Abuja, Nigeria

Tables and Figures

Improve Malaria Quality of Care Indicators in 128 Private Health Facilities in Oyo State, Nigeria (Jan 2021-Dec 2022)



	Pre-intervention	Post-intervention	P-value*
Fever cases tested by parasitological test	85%	98%	0.008
Confirmed uncomplicated malarial given ACT	96%	100%	0.05
Clinical malaria	15%	2%	0.009
IPTp2 uptake	44%	63%	0.05
IPTp3 uptake	12%	35%	0.05

*Calculated using a Wilcoxon signed rank test at 95% CI and 0.05 alpha between pre- and post-intervention

Results/Discussion/Conclusion

- Improving the capacity of health workers with regular and quality supportive supervisory visits in PHFs is fundamental to improving delivery and uptake of quality malaria services.
- Development and implementation of PSE strategy and formation of PSE committees is a result-oriented and sustainable approach to improve quality health service delivery in the private sector.
- It is of utmost importance that government at all levels reinforces regulatory oversight towards ensuring adherence to national guidelines on malaria case management to build sustainable quality malaria services in the private sector.
- There is need to scale up the intervention to other facilities in Oyo State with poor malaria performance of malaria quality of care indicators.

Main Findings

- Improved fever case and confirmed uncomplicated malaria suggesting increased adherence to national guidelines
- Significant reduction in clinical diagnosis of malaria suggests improved quality of malaria service delivery
- Increased involvement of the private sector in state malaria programs due to PSE committee engagement in facilities
- Increased uptake of ANC services for pregnant women in private facilities

References

- WHO World Malaria Report (2021)

PMI

U.S. PRESIDENT'S
MALARIA INITIATIVE

LED BY

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

msh
Management Sciences for Health

This document was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development Nigeria Mission (USAID/Nigeria).