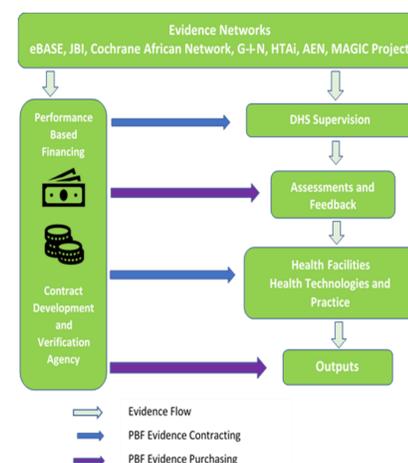


# Evidence Implementation in Performance Based Financing in Africa: A Missed Opportunity?

Performance based financing is an approach of health financing that targets the supply side of healthcare. Health facilities are paid financial incentives, known as bonuses, based on achieved predefined indicators. The approach has become trendy in African healthcare systems with about 60% health systems in the region adopting this approach.

However, measurement of performance should be based on use of best available evidence of what health technologies work. This aspect is currently lacking in the PBF design. This is therefore a missed opportunity for evidence implementation. Clinical audits and feedback conducted by district health services and used to score quality bonuses for incentivization of health facilities could help bridge the gap between research and practice.

In 2016, the Bali health district started an evidence implementation project on the treatment of uncomplicated malaria in children under five (Okwen 2018). The 2018 DHIS 2 data for the North West Region suggests Bali health district is leading in the case management of malaria generally.



## Objectives

To incorporate clinical audits and feedback into performance-based financing at district level in Cameroon

## Methods

This evidence implementation project was conducted between January 2016 and December 2017. The district health service staff received training on evidence based healthcare, using audits and feedback as an approach to district supervision, performance measures, and evidence implementation.

The district medical officer (DMO) provided clinical leadership for clinicians within the health district for the management of uncomplicated malaria.

1. The DMO developed clinical audits criteria for management of malaria or adopt an already developed set of criteria, (fig 2).
2. The DMO conducted audits and feedback within their regular monthly supervision sessions
3. The compliance rates was used to score quality bonuses for health facilities
4. The third-party payer used these compliance scores as an indication of quality and incentivize health facilities based on this. (See fig 2)



## Outcomes

1. Increase compliance with best practices, hence evidence based healthcare
2. Improve capacity and quality district health supervision
3. Improve capacity and quality of care at health facilities
4. Integrate clinical audits and feedback into health systems

## Discussion

At the moment, PBF seeks to ensure that healthcare services are based on best available evidence. For example, payment of bonuses for treatment of malaria is based on the availability of a malaria treatment guideline seen pasted in the hospital. This however does not translate into use. However, a clinical audit and feedback will ensure change in workplace behavior and culture towards adopting the evidence-based practice. This approach will provide a missing part of the puzzle for PBF in its quest to ensure healthcare services are of best quality. This approach will integrate the JBI approach into the health system of Cameroon which is similar to other African health systems.

This approach will stimulate increase in capacity building and incentivization for evidence use at district level and hence evidence based healthcare.

