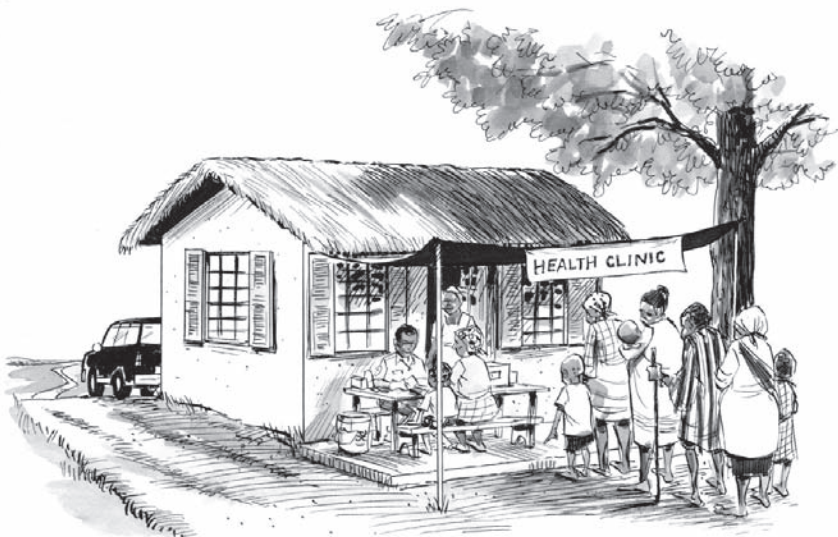


Transporting, Storing, and Handling Malaria Rapid Diagnostic Tests in Health Clinics



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The Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) is a Product Development and Implementation Partnership (PDIP) devoted to developing and implementing diagnostic tools for poverty-related diseases. An independent non-profit Swiss foundation based in Geneva, FIND focuses on a disease portfolio covering tuberculosis, malaria and human African trypanosomiasis. In its commitment to develop technologies that can be used as near as possible to where patients seek care, FIND has accumulated an impressive pipeline of new improved diagnostic tests that are expected to be deployed in the next few years.

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ABSTRACT

The publication is intended for staff at health clinics that use malaria rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs). It describes the basic principles for management and storage of RDT stock, and it outlines practical solutions for protecting RDTs against high temperatures during storage and transport. It also describes how to manage waste generated from RDT use.

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INTRODUCTION

Rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) for malaria are providing much-needed access to diagnosis in remote areas where laboratories are not available. However, high temperatures can damage the tests and reduce their shelf life. The recommended storage temperature for most RDTs is 2°C–30°C, although it is higher for some products. The various measures discussed in this manual to control exposure to high temperature will depend on your local climate and the storage specifications for the specific RDT. You may need to take similar measures when you store other diagnostics and medicines.

In many remote locations, where air-conditioning is unavailable, it is a challenge to control the storage temperature. RDTs are frequently stored at remote health facilities for long periods because stock is delivered infrequently. Under these conditions, diagnostic tests are especially vulnerable.

In tropical climates, by planning carefully and taking simple steps, you can improve the storage conditions and help preserve the tests.

RECEIVING RDTs

Before you receive the RDTs, make sure you have sufficient clean storage space inside the building where they will be stored.

General Guidelines

Follow these guidelines when you receive a shipment of RDTs:

- Count the number of tests you receive and compare this number with the quantity ordered.
- Immediately after you receive the RDTs, place them inside the building.
 - If this is not possible, place them in the shade—under a tree or, preferably, in a shelter—until you can move them into the building.
- **DO NOT**—
 - leave them directly in the sun or inside a vehicle parked in the sun
 - store them in a freezer
 - leave them unattended outside.



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