

4.1: "New or not" exercise (with answer for the facilitators guide)

New or not? (1)

Mohammed comes to the health centre with an anaesthetic skin patch. There are no visible disabilities. The health worker diagnoses leprosy. Taking his history, Mohammed has had the patch for 1 year, and was treated in another health centre with an ointment and some tablets. He can't remember the name of the drugs he took.

Answer: new case

New or not? (2)

Gloria is diagnosed with leprosy. She is surprised to hear the diagnosis. She was treated for the condition in another health centre, where she received some sort of blisterpack, she can't remember the name.

What can you look for and what questions can you ask to find out if she was receiving MDT previously?

Answer: you can look for darkening of the skin as a sign of clofazimine use. Ask if urine darkened (as an effect of rifampicine use). Ask for what examinations were done in the previous health center, to see if it was leprosy that was diagnosed.

New or not? (3)

Adam has newly moved to the area. He comes with a note from the clinic where he previously lived with the request to continue his medication for leprosy (MB). He can't remember how many doses he already received, he thinks about five. The note does not state either how many doses he received.

Answer: Not new, but transferred in.

New or not? (4)

After having completed the treatment for PB-Leprosy, Christina comes back with new complaints and nodules. She is sent to a Referral Health Centre, where a skin smear shows AFB. *What to do?*

Answer: Not new, but a re-classification to MB, so start MB-MDT.

New or not? (5)

Thomas was treated for MB Leprosy, some three years ago. Treatment was regular and without complications. Now he presents with many new painless nodular lesions. These new lesions started 3-4 months ago.

What is most likely the case with Thomas and what do you do?

Answer: this could be a relapse... refer for further confirmation and proceed to take a slit skin smear to confirm if this is positive at all.