Resource 5: health worker trainer and trainee manuals and patient leaflet
(from TACT study in Tanzania)

What are the health worker trainer and trainee manuals?
These manuals were used during the TACT trial of the ACT Consortium. TACT stands for Targeting ACTs (artemisinin-based combination therapy) and aims to find the best ways to use rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs), so that:

- patients with malaria do get treated
- patients without malaria do not receive an ACT but get treated for their likely illness.

This is a resource for trainers to assist health workers to implement the WHO policy for management of cases of fever.

The training recognises the challenges that health workers must overcome when incorporating malaria RDTs into their long established practices.

Previously presumptive treatment – based on symptoms and not a formal, blood-based diagnosis – was the norm, but the new guidelines challenge this common practice.

What is the patient leaflet?
This leaflet explains to patients the purpose of malaria RDTs and models for health workers how and when the tests should be used. The format is an A4 page folded leaflet in black-and-white with drawings and text. It can also be printed on larger sheets as a poster.

The leaflet follows a story which was constructed to illustrate five key points which formative research and participatory workshops found to be important:

- fevers encompass more than malaria
- RDTs are available
- why tests are trustworthy
- experiment in not taking antimalarials after negative test results
- health workers should give information to patients.

The leaflet was carefully pretested in five rounds with 43 pairs of community members in the study area. In the final round, respondents could interpret the overall messages of the leaflet, and understood an average of 97.3% of the 120 pictorial and text items of the leaflet.
These materials were developed by the ACT Consortium, which is funded through a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

This is important because the nature of malaria diagnosis and treatment practices, as well as the knowledge and perceptions of health workers and community members, varies from place to place. Based on the formative research, the resource may be adapted, tailored or changed in order to fit the intended audience and the specific context in which it will be used.

We suggest the resource is then piloted with its target audience in order to refine it before it is implemented. This will help to maximise the likelihood that the resources have the desired effects.

Once in place, we suggest this resource is evaluated in order to understand its potential impact and effects. You should also share the results as widely as possible in order to help guide and inform other communicators wishing to use the resource.

How should this resource be acknowledged?

Who should be contacted to request permission to make adaptations to this resource?
Hugh Reyburn, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine: hugh.reyburn@lshtm.ac.uk
Clare Chandler, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine: clare.chandler@lshtm.ac.uk

*How should this resource be used?*
You are free to share, copy and redistribute these materials in any medium or format under the following terms:

Attribution: You must give appropriate credit by using the citation above, provide a link to this license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.

Non Commercial: You must not use this publication for any commercial or income-generating purpose. No elements of this publication in part or in whole, may be used to promote any specific individual entity of product, in any manner whatsoever.

No Derivatives: Adaptation of the content of this publication is encouraged. Permission is required – please contact the investigator listed above directly.

No additional restrictions: You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits.

Where can I find more information?
You can find out more information about the TACT study, including publications, training materials and videos at:
www.actconsortium.org/TACT