

Performance Checklist for Giving Vitamin A and Deworming (VAS+D) Together

Instructions: This performance checklist is best used while paired with the VAS+D visual checklist - each checklist has the same 39 steps. While observing VAS+D service delivery, compare the quality of service to international best practices by recording a performance rating (+,-,0) down the column(s) to the right of each step. Use a new column for each observation.

Performance Ratings (+,-,0): Performance ratings provide a step-by-step record of VAS+D service provision. Supervisors and monitors should use the performance ratings to identify steps for which the service provider is competent (+), and those where the service provider needs additional support (-,0).

+	The service provider did the step correctly, and did not need help to complete the step
-	The service provider did the step incorrectly, or needed help to complete the step
0	The service provider did not perform the step

Step	Part 1: Community Education	Rating				
1	Welcome children and caregivers.					
2	Tell caregivers that today vitamin A and deworming will be given to eligible children.					
3	Show vitamin A capsules and deworming tablets and explain the relationships between age and dose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Vitamin A in blue capsules is for children ages 6-11 months (6 months up to 1 year), and the red capsules are for ages 12-59 months (1 year up to 5 years). Along with each red capsule, eligible children ages 12-23 months (1 year up to 2 years) will receive a half tablet of deworming, and children ages 24-59 months (2 years up to 5 years) will receive a whole tablet.” 					
4	Explain Dosing Schedule: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Vitamin A and deworming should be given to children every 4-6 months (2-3 times per year).” 					
5	State the Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Regular vitamin A and deworming means your child will be stronger, have healthy eyes, and be free of worms for better nutrition.” 					
6	Explain the Side Effects (for more detail see Table 1 at the end of this checklist): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Children who get vitamin A and deworming together may get one or more of these side effects: nausea, vomiting, headache, loss of appetite, swelling of the fontanel (soft spot on top of the head), mild abdominal pain, diarrhea, or fatigue.” 					
7	Mention Possibility of Side Effects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Side effects are rare, about 5 out of every 100 children may experience them.” 					
8	State the Duration of Side Effects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Side effects last for a maximum of 2 days from when the child receives vitamin A or deworming.” 					
9	Explain When to Seek Medical Attention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “If symptoms last longer than 2 days or if other symptoms develop, get medical help.” 					
10	State the Other Effects of Deworming: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “After deworming, you may see worms in your child’s stool. In <u>very rare</u> cases worms may also exit the nose and mouth; these can be pulled out or spit out.” 					
11	Clarify Safety and Pairing with Vaccinations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Vitamin A and deworming are <u>very safe</u> for children and can be given on the same day as vaccinations.” 					
12	Ask if there are any questions and respond accurately and respectfully.					

Step	Part 2: Eligibility Screening and Service Provision	Rating																				
13	Ask child's name and request child health card to verify.																					
14	<p>Check for vitamin A and deworming eligibility using the criteria listed below each service. If after checking for eligibility, you find that a child fails to meet 1 or more of the criteria for a particular service, do not provide that service. Instead, see Tables 2 and 3 found at the end of this checklist.</p> <p>* Never send vitamin A or deworming home with a caregiver to give to the child later.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="188 323 1360 978"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="188 323 756 394">3 Eligibility Criteria to Qualify for Vitamin A</th> <th data-bbox="756 323 1360 394">6 Eligibility Criteria to Qualify for Deworming</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="188 394 756 466"> <input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/> Child is 6-59 months of age (6 months up to 5 years) </td> <td data-bbox="756 394 1360 466"> <input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/> Child is 12-59 months of age (1 year up to 5 years) </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="188 466 756 558"> <input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Show the capsules and verify that:</i> <input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/> Child has not received vitamin A in the past 1 month </td> <td data-bbox="756 466 1360 558"> <input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Show the tablets and verify that:</i> <input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/> Child has not received deworming in the past 1 month </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="188 558 756 688"> <i>Child is <u>not</u> experiencing the following today. Ask the caregiver if the child has the following today. If so, refer child for medical help:</i> </td> <td data-bbox="756 558 1360 688"> <i>Child is <u>not</u> experiencing the following today. Ask the caregiver if the child has the following today. If so, refer child for medical help:</i> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="188 688 756 793"> <input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/> Severe difficulty breathing today <input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/> (observe to make sure the child will not choke on the oil) </td> <td data-bbox="756 688 1360 793"> <input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/> Severe difficulty breathing today <input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/> (observe to make sure the child will not choke on the tablet) </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="188 793 756 856"></td> <td data-bbox="756 793 1360 856"> <input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/> Vomiting today </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="188 856 756 919"></td> <td data-bbox="756 856 1360 919"> <input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/> Fever today </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="188 919 756 978"></td> <td data-bbox="756 919 1360 978"> <input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/> Severe diarrhea today </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	3 Eligibility Criteria to Qualify for Vitamin A	6 Eligibility Criteria to Qualify for Deworming	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Child is 6-59 months of age (6 months up to 5 years)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Child is 12-59 months of age (1 year up to 5 years)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Show the capsules and verify that:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Child has not received vitamin A in the past 1 month	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Show the tablets and verify that:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Child has not received deworming in the past 1 month	<i>Child is <u>not</u> experiencing the following today. Ask the caregiver if the child has the following today. If so, refer child for medical help:</i>	<i>Child is <u>not</u> experiencing the following today. Ask the caregiver if the child has the following today. If so, refer child for medical help:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Severe difficulty breathing today <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> (observe to make sure the child will not choke on the oil)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Severe difficulty breathing today <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> (observe to make sure the child will not choke on the tablet)		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Vomiting today		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Fever today		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Severe diarrhea today					
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15	Wash your hands using alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap and clean water.																					
16	Ask if the child is comfortable and make sure the child is calm. To minimize choking risk, never force a child to take either vitamin A or deworming and do not give it to a child who is crying.																					
17	For children eligible for vitamin A, select the age-appropriate dose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ages 6-11 months (6 months up to 1 year) receive blue capsule (100 000 IU) – Ages 12-59 months (1 year up to 5 years) receive red capsule (200 000 IU) 																					
18	Ask the caregiver to support the child's head and to ensure the child's mouth is open.																					
19	Use clean scissors to cut off the narrow tip of the capsule.																					
20	Without touching the child, squeeze all of the vitamin A oil into the child's mouth.																					
21	Discard used capsule in waste container.																					
22	Ask if the child has swallowed all of the oil and is comfortable.																					
23	Wipe off excess oil from hands and scissors using a clean towel.																					
24	For children eligible for deworming, select the age-appropriate dose of Albendazole (for alternate tablet preparations and Mebendazole, see the Table 4 at the end of this checklist) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ages 12-23 months (1 year up to 2 years) receive a half tablet (200 mg) CRUSHED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If using a half tablet, store the other half to use for another child. – Ages 24-59 months (2 years up to 5 years) receive a whole tablet (400 mg) CRUSHED 																					
25	Prepare the Albendazole by putting either 1/2 or 1 tablet inside a small folded piece of clean, unprinted, white paper. Using a glass bottle or a pestle, crush the tablet into a fine powder. ALWAYS crush deworming tablets for ALL children under 5 years.																					
26	Ask if the child is comfortable and make sure the child is calm. To minimize choking risk, never force a child to take either vitamin A or deworming and do not give it to a child who is crying.																					
27	Tell caregiver to support the back of the child's head and ensure the mouth is open. Without touching the child, use the folded paper to pour the crushed tablet into the child's mouth.																					
28	Discard used paper in waste container.																					
29	Ask if the child has chewed and swallowed all of the powder and is comfortable.																					

Step	Part 3: Recordkeeping and Exit Counseling	Rating				
30	Record the vitamin A and deworming doses given to the child on your distribution records and on the child health card.					
31	Write the return date on the child health card or other paper and give to the caregiver. Tell caregiver when and where to return with their child for vitamin A and deworming.					
32	Clarify Safety and Pairing with Vaccinations: – “Vitamin A and deworming are <u>very safe</u> for children and can be given on the same day as vaccinations.”					
33	Explain the Side Effects (for more detail see Table 1 at the end of this checklist): – Children who get vitamin A and deworming together may get one or more of these side effects: nausea, vomiting, headache, loss of appetite, swelling of the fontanel (soft spot on top of the head), mild abdominal pain, diarrhea, or fatigue.”					
34	Mention Possibility of Side Effects: – “Side effects are rare, about 5 out of every 100 children may experience them.”					
35	Clarify the Duration of Side Effects: – “Side effects last for a maximum of 2 days from when the child receives vitamin A or deworming.”					
36	Explain When to Seek Medical Attention: – “If symptoms last longer than 2 days, or if other symptoms develop, get medical help”					
37	State the Other Effects of Deworming: – “After deworming, you may see worms in your child’s stool. In <u>very rare</u> cases worms may also exit the nose and mouth; these can be pulled out or spit out.”					
38	State the Benefits: – “Regular vitamin A and deworming means your child will be stronger, and have healthy eyes and be free of worms for better nutrition.”					
39	Ask if there are any questions and respond accurately and respectfully.					

Table 1: Detailed Explanation of Side Effects

Side Effect	Nausea	Vomiting	Headache	Loss of Appetite	Swelling of the Fontanel	Mild Abdominal Pain	Diarrhea	Fatigue
Vitamin A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Albendazole	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓

Table 2: Notes on Vitamin A Supplementation (VAS) Ineligibility (see step 14)

A child is ineligible (i.e., not eligible) and cannot be given vitamin A if any of the following are true. For more information, refer to the *Reference Manual for Administration of Vitamin A Supplementation in Universal Distribution Projects*.

Reason for Ineligibility: The child...	How to Respond to Ineligibility: If the child...
– Is younger than 6 months, or is 60 months (5 years) or older.	– Is younger than 6 months, tell caregiver when and where to return with their child for the next vitamin A dose, and counsel on exclusive breastfeeding. – Is 60 months (5 years) or older, counsel on vitamin A-rich foods.
– Has received vitamin A within the past 1 month.	– Has received VAS within the past 1 month, tell caregiver when and where to return with their child for the next vitamin A dose.
– Is experiencing severe difficulty breathing.	– Is experiencing severe difficulty breathing, refer for immediate medical attention. Also, tell caregiver to return with the child for the next VAS dose.

Table 3: Notes on Deworming Ineligibility (see step14)

A child is ineligible (i.e., not eligible) and cannot be given Albendazole deworming if any of the following are true. For more information, refer to the *Reference Manual for Administration of Deworming Tablets to Preschool Children 12-59 Months of Age in Vitamin A Distribution Projects*.

Reason for Ineligibility The child...	How to Respond to Ineligibility If the child...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Is younger than 12 months (1year), or is 60 months (5 years) or older. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Is younger than 12 months, determine if the child is eligible for other health services, especially vitamin A. – Child is 60 months (5 years) or older, counsel on symptoms of worms and where to receive treatment, counsel on nutrient-rich foods, especially those containing vitamin A.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Has received a deworming tablet within the past 1 month; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Has received deworming within the past 1 month, tell caregiver when and where to return with their child for the next deworming dose.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Is experiencing <u>any</u> of the following today: fever; vomiting; severe diarrhea; or severe difficulty breathing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Is experiencing severe difficulty breathing, fever today, vomiting today, or severe diarrhea today, then refer child for immediate medical attention. Also, tell caregiver to return with the child for the next deworming dose.

Step	Table 4: OPTIONAL - Giving Water After Deworming (from Part 2)	Rating
24	When using Mebendazole— For children eligible for deworming, select the age-appropriate dose and preparation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Age 12-59 months receive a whole tablet Mebendazole (500 mg) CRUSHED 	

Step	Table 5: Alternate Tablet Preparations (from Part 2)	Rating
24	When using Mebendazole— For children eligible for deworming, select the age-appropriate dose and preparation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Age 12-59 months receive a whole tablet Mebendazole (500 mg) CRUSHED 	
25	Alternate Crushing Methods— ALWAYS crush deworming tablets for ALL children under 5 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Use <u>clean spoons</u> or <u>mortar and pestle</u> to crush a half or a whole deworming tablet into a fine powder and transfer the powder onto a disposable spoon or a small, folded piece of clean white paper. – If crushing using a spoon, dissolve the powder with a few drops of clean water. 	
	...Continue on to Step 26	