Possible misalignment between Costed Activities and Intervention Details

The Intervention Details fields describe how the intervention was implemented. For example, an ART intervention may include an ARV regimen for the patients, a specific visit schedule and personnel, supportive care (e.g. nutritional support, or additional medication for opportunistic infections), clinical monitoring, etc. For an HIV counseling and testing intervention, we’re likely to see testing of the study population for HIV, counseling for HIV, and maybe referrals to ongoing care.

The Costed Activities field specifically identifies which elements of the intervention are included in the cost estimates. So, for example, a thorough costing study would include as many of the intervention elements as were implemented into the cost estimates. Sometimes, we see omitted costs, such as demand generation, that were included in the intervention but not costed. That’s why alignment between all these fields is important to capture. We’ve gone through great efforts to ensure that Omitted Costs field is accurate and is less reliant on the Intervention Details and Costed Activities (Omitted Costs are tied to input categories – recurring costs, capital, etc. while Intervention Details and Costed Activities are more about activity categories).

Just to ensure there’s no confusion, the Intervention Detail fields include the following:

Modality Category (id\_modality)

Phase (id\_phase)

Clinical Monitoring (clinical\_monitoring)

Demand Generation (demand\_generation)

Counseling Content (counseling\_content)

Staff Type & Number (staff\_type)

Treatment Phase (treatment\_phase)

Supportive Care (supportive\_care)

Visit Type & Number (visits)

Referrals (referrals)

Method (method)

ARV Regimen (arv\_regimen)

Screening & Diagnoses (screening\_diagnoses)

Treatment (treatment)

Community Awareness (community\_awareness)

Health System (health\_system)

Technology (id\_tech)

You’ll notice a fair bit of redundancy in these fields, and that was intentional since interventions vary so much, even within an intervention type. None of these fields should be missing (a blank cell). They can have:

* NR: the study didn’t report inclusion of an element in the intervention and we just couldn’t tell based on how cost estimates were reported
* Yes – details NR: the study noted that this element was included in the intervention but didn’t offer any specifics (e.g. “patients were referred for additional support” but no detail on what type of referral was done is provided, such as to a social worker or a specialist)
* N/A: the field isn’t applicable for this intervention, such as ARV Regimen isn’t applicable for VMMC
* Anything else: any other content listed indicates that the study included sufficient detail to identify characteristics about the field, such as an ART study including adherence counseling (Counseling Content) or CD4 count (Clinical Monitoring)

The Costed Activities are tied to the specific activities of the intervention and include: Clinical Monitoring (clinical\_monitoring), Demand Generation (demand\_generation), Counseling Content (counseling\_content), Supportive Care (supportive\_care), Referrals (referrals), ARV Regimen (arv\_regimen), Screening & Diagnoses (screening\_diagnoses), Treatment (treatment), Community Awareness (community\_awareness), Health System (health\_system), and Technology (id\_tech). Notice that Modality Category (id\_modality), Phase (id\_phase), Staff Type & Number (staff\_type), Treatment Phase (treatment\_phase), Visit Type & Number (visits), Method (method) are the only omissions from the list in Costed Activities because they are not truly activities for the intervention.

So, a hypothetical PMTCT example with the following Intervention Details (I highlighted the fields that should be addressed for the Costed Activities field):

* Modality Category: Treatment Phase
* Phase: standard of care
* Clinical Monitoring: yes – details NR
* Demand Generation: None
* Counseling Content: initial counseling, adherence counseling
* Staff Type & Number: doctor (3), nurse (2)
* Treatment Phase: initiation
* Supportive Care: None
* Visit Type & Number: 4/yr
* Referrals: yes – details NR
* Method: N/A
* ARV regimen (ART): AZT+3TC+EFV; ABC+3TC+LPV/r
* Screening & Diagnoses: NR
* Treatment: first line
* Community Awareness: None
* Health System: None
* Technology: first line

And the following listed in Costed Activities: Clinical Monitoring; Referrals; ARV Regimen; Treatment, Technology. The Costed Activities field is incomplete. We can see from the above example that there was counseling content included in the intervention. The correct form should be: Clinical Monitoring; Counseling Content; Referrals; ARV Regimen; Treatment, Technology. That’s what I’m hoping to get from this check.

To summarize, check the intervention elements listed in Costed Activities against the Intervention Details fields (except Modality, Phase, Staff Type & Number, Visit Type & Number, Method, and Technology). The table below outlines possible errors (using Supportive Care as an example). Also, please continue your frequency checks for ALL Intervention Details fields so that I can fix any truly missing cells or not-yet-finalized data (e.g. the ARV Regimen issue you noticed).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Intervention Detail field content | Costed Activities content | Possible Errors |
| NR |  | Should be absent in Costed Activities |
| Supportive Care | Incorrectly included in Costed Activities |
| N/A |  | Should be absent in Costed Activities |
| Supportive Care | Incorrectly included in Costed Activities |
| Yes – details NR | Supportive Care | Should be present in Costed Activities |
|  | Incorrectly absent from Costed Activities |
| Nutrition support, OI prophylaxis | Supportive Care | Should be present in Costed Activities |
|  | Incorrectly absent from Costed Activities |