Following is a response from Senior Data Processing Specialist, Noureddine Abderrahim:

1-   The inclusion/exclusion of a child for any type of analysis is defined by the period in which the child is born. To include a child we take his/her date of birth and see whether it is included in the period of analysis which in this case is the period 1-35 months preceding the survey. To compute the age in months or the number of months passed since the child's birth we look at his/her date of birth and the date of interview. The date of birth of the child is asked in question 215 of the India questionnaire and the date of interview is given in the cover page of the questionnaire. In the recode data files that DHS distributes, , these two dates are transformed into what is called the Century Month Code or CMC for ease of use. The CMC is the number of months since the beginning of the last century until the date of interview. The number of months would be the number of years since the year 1900, times the number of months in a year which is 12, plus the number of months passed in the current year. The CMC for date of birth for children is B3 and the CMC for the date of interview given by the variable V008. You may want to consult the DHS Recode Manual, that can be downloaded from the www.DHSprogram.com website. For the child health indicators, you need to select only the surviving children age 1-35 months from among the two most recent births.

2-   For analysis of data on child health, use of the data where the child is the unit of analysis will be most efficient. The most appropriate data file for child and maternal health information is the one with KR in its name, namely: IAKR42xx (where xx is FL for ASCII Flat file including a data description for STATA, SPSS, STATA, SV for SPSS system file, SD for SAS system file, and DT for STATA system file).

3-   Diarrhea: This indicator is taken from the question 469 of the India questionnaire and it corresponds to question 454 model A questionnaire or standard questionnaire model A of the phase 3 of DHS. This standard questionnaire is the base of questions used by the NFHS-2 and all the other surveys that were conducted during this phase. The question 469 is recoded for distribution into variable H11. The estimate is a frequency of the answer "Yes, last two weeks", code 2, in the variable H11 for all children born in the period of analysis.

4-   Treated with ORS: Among the children who had diarrhea in the 2 weeks preceding the survey, the estimate of children who received an ORS treatment is the percentage who answered "YES" to question 475 first part. The recode variable that corresponds to this question is H13. The answer "yes" to 475 is recode "Yes: ORS - probed", code 2

5-   Taken to a health facility: All the answers to question 474 from to A to S excluding pharmacy codes Q and R were grouped in one recode variable called H12Z. The individual answers are stored in the variables H12A to H12X. Among the children who had diarrhea and born within the period of analysis, the estimate of the children taken to a health facility is a frequency of the answer "Yes: medical treatment", code 1, to H12Z.

6-   Taken to a health facility for children with fever/ARI: The estimate is based on question 466 (breathes faster than usual with short, rapid breath), or H31B in the recode data file, for children

with fever in question 465, or H31 in the recode data file. The answers to "Taken to a health facility" uses the question 468, or H32Z. The individual questions for the facilities are stored in recode variable H32A to H32X.