Reviewer's report

Title: Is the APLS formula used to calculate weight-for-age applicable to a Trinidadian population?

Version: 3 Date: 30 May 2012

Reviewer: Giles Cattermole

Reviewer's report:

The paper is much improved, with a clear and sensible conclusion. The paper is very relevant for those practising paediatric emergency medicine in the Caribbean.

There are no major revisions necessary.

Minor essential revisions:

There are several small typographical errors, especially regarding the spelling of Luscombe and Owens (and there are still issues of consistency as to how their formula is described, eg in table 2).

Table 2 needs a clear, relevant title if it is to be retained.

Discretionary revisions:

I still think the paper is a bit too long.

Table 2 could readily be incorporated into Table 1; after all, the percentage differences are merely a different way of looking at bias, and similarly percentage levels of agreement could be given. I wouldn't bother with 95%CI.

The ‘percentage within 10%’ figures could also be included in one big table. All this would reduce the text necessary in the results section. Alternatively, you could simply not include table 2 at all, as the results are all in the text.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.