Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors associated with presentation to care with advanced HIV disease in Brussels and Northern France: 1997-2007

Version: 1 Date: 14 November 2010

Reviewer: Vanni Borghi

Reviewer’s report:

- Minor Essential Revisions

Paper was well written and fully answered to the aim of the study.

The results obtained in the two different region of France and Belgium were similar to those of others European studies about the crucial problem of the late presentation to care in people infected with HIV, also if not performed on a national surveillance system of HIV infection.

Only few remark must be clear up:

- In Materials and Methods the definition of the two class [(a) “late testing,” defined as presentation with “advanced HIV disease” and HIV diagnosis <6 months before initial presentation to care; and (b) “early testing,” defined as presentation with “advanced HIV disease” and HIV diagnosis >6 months before initial presentation to care] are different by those in Discussion [“early testing” (i.e.; HIV diagnosis <6 months before initial presentation to care) and “late testing” (i.e.; HIV diagnosis >6 months before initial presentation to care) “]

In table 1 the characteristics: “AIDS-defining disease before or at enrolment” is unclear if AIDS defining event occurred before presentation.

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'