Reviewer's report

Title: Predictors of Mortality among TB-HIV Co-infected Patients being treated for Tuberculosis in Northwest Ethiopia: A retrospective cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 16 March 2013

Reviewer: Margaret Lartey

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Minor Essential Revisions
1. Title: This states predictors of mortality among TB/HIV co-infected patients....... However in the conclusion in the abstract and the body of the document only the absence of ART is emphasized. The authors should modify the conclusion.
2. Abstract: Well written. Conclusions to be modified as previously suggested.
3. The research question is well defined. In the background however, the authors provide a rationale for the study to be conducted in Ethiopia without providing adequate information on previous work done by others on predictors of TB mortality particularly in sub Saharan Africa. This will provide a foundation on which their work contributes more evidence.
4. The methods are appropriate but some aspects not well described. There is no explanation on why Bahir Dar was chosen and its representativeness of North West Ethiopia. There is also no explanation on how the four health institutions were selected.
5. The data is sound and the results clear.
6. Limitations: The list could be more comprehensive as half of all eligible participants had to be excluded for one reason or another. There could also have been bias as information on adherence to medications was not available in the records.
7. The discussions are balanced and supported by data, authors have acknowledged cited work and the writing is acceptable.

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 I have no competing interests.