Reviewer’s report

Title: Success with antiretroviral treatment for children in Kigali, Rwanda: Experience with health center/nurse-based care

Version: 2 Date: 23 August 2008

Reviewer: nathan ford

Reviewer’s report:

Congratulations to the authors on a fantastic job of revising this manuscript and I am very pleased that you were in agreement to emphasize the importance of the nurse-based model (at considerable effort).

I just have a couple of final minor editing suggestions, below, but otherwise recommend that this article be published without delay.

PAGE 2
“Eighty-four percent (n=265) of children were still on treatment in the program.”
Insert ‘of’

PAGE 6
" With one physician/50,000"
Change decimal to comma (French-English issue). This is repeated elsewhere.

PAGE 7
“Currently, no medical assistants are being trained.”
Does this cadre exist? If not, I’d delete this line or replace it with the phrase “Currently, no other non-physician clinician cadres are being trained” as medical assistants are just one of a number of such cadres in Africa (see Mullan & Frehywot, Lancet 2007. This article suggests than nurses are the only non-physician cadre in Rwanda).

PAGE 8
“with substantial financial support provided by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GF).”
Delete acronym as it is not repeated. (Also, the usual acronym is GFATM).

PAGE 17
“Viral load was less than”
Change ‘then’ to ‘than’

PAGE 21
“geographical proximity is still likely to have facilitated increased access and acceptability for both caregivers and children, and this is consistent with findings from other studies [35].”

Suggest adding the above text to reinforce the fact that the reference supports this finding.

“The very low rate of lost to follow-up”

Change ‘rated’ to ‘rate’

PAGE 24

“We suggest that this kind of program could be replicated in other settings and is sustainable.”

The description of programme changes are encouraging and I think the authors can be more clear on the potential for sustainability. I would change ‘We suggest that’ to ‘we are confident that’

**Level of interest:** An exceptional article

**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