Reviewer's report

Title: "I made antiretrovirals part of my life": Understanding the Facilitators and Barriers of Antiretroviral Adherence in Peru

Version: 1 Date: 15 June 2009

Reviewer: William D Marelich

Reviewer's report:

It has been my pleasure to review the article "I made antiretrovirals part of my life...". The paper shows promise, but there are a number of issues with the manuscript.

Major compulsory revisions: My biggest issue with the paper is simply the Results, and how the qualitative results were reported. I'm a fan of thematic approaches to qualitative research, and as a fan, there are certain ways how to make such reports. Here, describing the themes and having the narratives contained in tables is confusing. Besides confusion, I have no clue as a reader whether just one or two participants made a comment, or whether 30% of your sample made the comment. A casual report by ONE or TWO people would not make a theme. However, 6% of the sample making similar statements would make a theme (albeit weak), and 30% of the sample making a similar comment would make a strong theme. You reference Murphy et al. (2003) -- that paper I am familiar with, and the way the Results were reported in that paper would be the appropriate way to redo the current paper. In addition, an excellent paper by Sugg ("Primary care physicians' response to domestic violence", JAMA, 1992, vol. 267) would be another example. Both describe what %’s of the sample report a theme, then provide example text. I believe the Results section should be totally redone using these and other examples. You may also find your results will actually change once these %’s are documented, which may ultimately change your findings.

Minor essential revisions:

a) page 5 -- the statement noting how qualitative methods gather rich in depth information (etc.) can be removed.

b) under Methods (pg. 6) -- provide a reference for purposive sampling

c) under Methods (pg. 7) -- break the paragraph at "Audio files..."

d) under Methods (pg. 7) -- find a good method reference for how themes were decided -- you note summaries were compared and discussed over 10 meetings, etc....find a reference to support such an approach.

e) under Methods (pg. 7) -- you note Atlas.ti was used....give a year as well.
**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:**

declare that I have no competing interests