Reviewer's report

Title: What happens to ART-eligible patients who do not start ART? Dropout between screening and ART initiation: a cohort study in Karonga, Malawi

Version: 2 Date: 17 August 2010

Reviewer: Ingrid V Bassett

Reviewer's report:

The authors have adequately addressed the concerns raised by the original review. However, some minor editing is still required to ensure clarity and coherence.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. The first 2 sentences of the discussion seem somewhat unrelated to the rest of the content of the paper. It would make more sense to begin the paragraph summarizing the findings of the current study (for example, starting with the sentence "We show that in this ART programme 14% of individuals....."

2. The last paragraph of the paper is really "Implications" and not "Conclusions from the current study. It would make more sense to delete that heading and incorporate this into the discussion section as implications.

3. Some English language editing is needed for the sentence currently in "Conclusions": "We also show that a major reason for not receiving ART is that they die".

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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"