Reviewer's report

Title: Anxiety and depression amongst patients enrolled in a public sector antiretroviral treatment programme in South Africa: a cross sectional study

Version: 4 Date: 8 December 2011

Reviewer: Rob van Hest

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary revisions

It is always pleasant to notice how much a manuscript can improve in structure and content after review. Compliments to Michelle Pappin and colleagues for the efforts made.

Apart from a few minor remarks this paper qualifies for publication:

Abstract:
- In the results section I would move the last sentence one sentence earlier (after "more symptoms of anxiety")

Background:
Page 4: In the last paragraph after the Hospital Anxiety and depression Scale the acronym HADS can now mentioned (and reference 33 moved forward)

Page 5: In the second paragraph the third sentence "Although the prevalence of anxiety and depression vary across settings" can be deleted as this is repeated in the new text in red that follows.

Methods:
Page 7: I would add to the first sentence of "measures" after "were collected", specified in detail in the Appendix below. In the fourth sentence "stigma, coping and psychosocial support" should not be in italics.

In the first sentence of the second paragraph Anxiety and depression should not be in italics.

In the second sentence now only the acronym HADS can be used (without reference 33).

On page 8 first sentence "by Zigmond and Smith (1983)" can be deleted as this is not the style of referencing in this manuscript.

Results:
In second paragraph "correlates of anxiety" in the last-but-one sentence I would say "were also positively correlated".
Discussion:
Page 11: in the last sentence of the first paragraph "by Fleishman and Fogel (1994)" can be deleted as this is not the style of referencing in this manuscript, and replaced by "It has been".

Conclusion:
Page 12: In the third sentence I would write "severe side effects" and "avoidant coping strategies".

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:

No CoI to declare