Reviewer's report

Title: An investigation of factors associated with the health and well-being of HIV-infected or HIV-affected older people in rural South Africa

Version: 1 Date: 5 November 2011

Reviewer: Willie Mollentze

Reviewer's report:

A well-written manuscript reporting on a neglected topic i.e. the health and well-being of older adults living in a society with a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS.

Minor Essential Revisions

Methods - WOPS:
The authors should clearly state at the outset that this report is mainly on WHODAS, WHOQoL and HSS (Reference is made to anthropometric measurements performed and blood drawn for laboratory measurements but these results are not presented).

It is assumed that the HIV affected groups (3 and 4) are HIV negative: It would have been helpful if the authors expanded on why the HIV status of respondents in these groups were not known since blood was taken.

Results:
p11: Last paragraph, last sentence: "These differences were statistically significant different for the WHODAS............". Please rewrite this sentence to improve clarity since the statements made do not correspond to the results shown in Table 3.
p11: Figure 1 in need of a caption.
p12 and Table 6: It is worthwhile to comment that HIV-infected older people with some source of income were associated with the likelihood of having a high HSS score after adjusting for other factors.

Discussion:
p12 paragraph one: ..(median by gender and HIV status from 69 to 88). (87.5 rounded off to 88).

15, last paragraph: "In contrast to these study results,....: this statement is unclear: consider removing and retain the rest of the sentence. The statement made in this (the first sentence) does not appear to be entirely consistent with Table 5).

Limitations
p17, first paragraph: The data presented do not support the following statement: "The findings suggesting those aged 70+ may have better health status than
those aged 50-59...”

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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.