Reviewer's report

Title: Patterns of Condom use and associated factors among HIV positive clients in North Western Ethiopia: A comparative cross sectional study

Version: 5 Date: 1 March 2012

Reviewer: Emilie HENRY

Reviewer's report:

Dear authors,

thanks for the new version of the manuscripts. I noticed that some comments have been taken in consideration in the new version of the article. Nevertheless, several problems already pointed out in the previous review are still in the last version you sent for publication.

1) in the background section (abstracts and article), you stated "an increasing number of sexual transmission may stem from those who know they are infected and engage in unprotected sex". As I already indicated, I think this statement is problematic. First, the reference you used as a support is dated (1999). Second in the recent literature, data tend to show that most of new cases are not related to transmission from people who know they are infected and engage in unprotected sex but are related to people ignoring their HIV status, highlighting the need for effective HIV testing programmes.

2) in the discussion section, I think you could go further on the interpretation and discussion of your data and model. You can't just take your results one by one and discuss it explaining that "the difference may be due to study setup, study design, sampling technique". This is too vague and need to be more elaborated. Finally, as already indicated in a previous report, I think a very interesting result you have in hands is the percentage of HIV+ persons who stop to have sexual intercourse. This is in line with data from northern countries but data are still scarce on this topic in countries from Subsaharan Africa. Then, I think you should elaborate further on the discussion on reported reason for unprotected anal intercourse and be more practical on recommendations for action.

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests