Reviewer's report

Title: Treatment actions and treatment failure: case studies in the response to severe childhood malaria in Mali

Version: 1 Date: 6 August 2012

Reviewer: Rose Kakai

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary Revisions
1. Whereas the title is on malaria, the content of the document refers to febrile illness, not necessarily caused by malaria. It is therefore difficult to determine e.g. if mortality was due to malaria or other illness. I suggest the title reflects the content.

2. In description of data collection, state clearly what parameters were considered for qualitative and quantitative methods respectively.

3. In the absence of any statistical calculation for quantitative data, it is not clear if the results presented are significant or not.

4. For consistency in results, percentages can be presented in brackets to add meaning to the numbers. This has been done in some results but not all.

5. In methodology, purposive sampling was used to select households in which a child under the age of five recently experienced a severe febrile illness. It may be necessary to state recent in terms of time e.g. 2 numbers of days, weeks or whatever was considered as recent.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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