Reviewer's report

Title: Characteristics and treatment outcomes of tuberculosis patients who "transfer-in" to health facilities in Harare City, Zimbabwe: A descriptive cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 24 August 2012

Reviewer: Wilfred Chalamira-Nkhoma

Reviewer's report:

1: Study question and objectives are well posed and stated
2: The methods are well described and are appropriate for the nature of the study
3: Limitations are not acknowledged or specified
4: Data presentation in Tables is incomplete with regard to use of specified statistical methods and statistics that have been provided in the text (e.g. comparison of treatment outcomes between new and retreatment cases)

Minor essential revisions: Adding statistics (from Chi or other tests used) to table, and providing comparison data for "alternative patient cohort" such as the non transfer in cohort

Minor essential Revisions:
1: Consistently need to provide comparison data (from the rest of the registered patient cohort) in interpreting the significance of the results of the "tranfer-in" patient cohort
2:

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I HAVE NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH THIS PARTICULAR WORK OTHER THAN THAT I HAVE USED MY PREVILIGED POSITION OF ACCESS TO MANY COUNTRY DATA TO MAKE A JUDGEMENT ON THE LOW RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF "TRANFER - IN" AND OR "TRANFER OUT" (FROM THE COMPOSITE GROUPING "NOT EVALUATED") AS A CAUSE OF LOW TREATMENT SUCCESS RATES IN THE AFRICAN REGION.