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: 30 August 2012

Reviewer: Robert Ranganai Makombe

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These are all Minor Essential Revisions

ABSTRACT

1. Results:
   Third sentence: Did these 176 patients have complete data for all variables or, as stated under "Characteristics and treatment outcomes of transfer-in patients", second paragraph, third sentence, did they have data on time between transfer-out and transfer-in?

MAIN ARTICLE

2. Introduction
   First paragraph, last sentence: explain meaning of “high burden country”

3. General diagnosis and management of TB patients
   Second paragraph, first sentence: “..at 2, 5 and 5 months”. Amend accordingly
   Second paragraph, last sentence: first use of acronym “OI” – spell out.
   This section should be condensed and moved to Introduction section

4. Recording and reporting system in the NTP
   Second paragraph, third sentence: describe what happens, not what should happen. This section too should be condensed and moved to Introduction section

5. Characteristics and treatment outcomes of transfer-in patients
   First paragraph, fifth sentence: Give the denominator from which 95% of patients with an HIV test result are derived.

6. Discussion
   Second paragraph, second sentence: The figure of nearly 90% taking less than 31 days to transfer-out and transfer-in is important and should be mentioned in the results section.
   Fifth paragraph, fourth sentence: Give reference for “Reasons for not
communicating TB treatment outcomes have often been attributed to shortage of TB treatment outcome request forms coupled with increasingly unreliable postal services in Zimbabwe.”

**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:**

I declare that I have no competing interests