Reviewer's report

Title: Health-Seeking Behavior and Associated Factors among Tuberculosis Suspects in Northwest Ethiopia: A Population-based Cross-sectional Study

Version: 5 Date: 3 July 2013

Reviewer: Tigistu Adamu Ashengo

Reviewer's report:

1. The question on cough for >2 weeks is not clear. Are the respondents to report on any cough of >2 weeks in the last year? Month? Will be good to clarify.

2. Page 5 first paragraph “Finally, health education was given to the households with the intention to reduce stigma towards TB”… QUESTION- was stigma an issue prior to doing this research? Why was it chosen as the topic of education?

3. Page 6 definitions. Seeking care from private sector is considered as ‘inappropriate’ behavior. Why?

4. In a related note to # 3 in Ethiopia as well as in many other African countries high household income is associated with increased visit to private health care providers. Later in the discussion the researchers found out that high income is associated with ‘appropriate’ behavior. Therefore income can be an variable for both appropriate health seeking behavior as well as for going to private clinics (and hence inappropriate behavior). Is it possible to assess what proportion of those visiting private clinics are from the high income?

5. Discussion section need to be strengthened
   a. Improvement in “intention to engage in appropriate health seeking ...” is, according to the researchers might be the result of increased attention by the gov’t to the prevention and control of TB..”. This is a very general statement might be good to provide a brief context of what happened between the previous measurement and the current “improved” measurement.

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