Reviewer's report

Title: Adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) among People Living With HIV (PLHIV): A Cross-Sectional Survey to Measure in Lao PDR

Version: 1 Date: 10 May 2013

Reviewer: dominique ricard

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Major Compulsory Revisions

The sample of 346 patients on ARV represents around 20% of the total number of patients on ARV in the 2 studied sites. We probably need more explanation on the sampling; is it a convenient or random sampling? I believe it is an important methodological question. In addition it would be very informative to know from the sampling which patients came for a regular visit or for another event as people coming for an event may be overrepresented in the sample.

“and most of them (88.7%) had CD4 cell counts less than 350 mm3 with a mean of 148.1+175.4 mm3” This sentence is confusing as 350 mm3 is the threshold to ARV treatment according to the National ARV guidelines.

It is noted that “illicit drug use” may be an associated factor to non-adherence, would be good to know what type of drug use is it.

It would have been good to test “support by peer” if existing.

In the analysis of “Health risk behaviours by sex of respondents”, many respondents smoke, drink alcohol and do little exercise. Have these factors been controls for in the analysis?

Minor Essential Revisions

The estimated prevalence of HIV in the country is 0.3% (and not 0.2) and estimated number of people living with the virus is 10,000 (see UNAIDS Website).

“Accesses to treatment for PLHIV however, remains insufficient and with limited staff, funding and geographical reach [16-17]”. They are old references (2007 and 2009), I am not sure they are still valid. I would recommend looking at the GARP 2012 and the external review of the National Programme done in 2011.

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 interest