Reviewer’s report

Title: Predictors of loss to follow-up before HIV treatment initiation in Northwest Ethiopia: a case control study

Version: 5 Date: 26 July 2013

Reviewer: Bakhao Ndiaye

Reviewer’s report:

1. The page numbers referenced in the responses of the author were not accurate; this made very difficult my review. Efforts should be made in the future for better correspondence.

2. If I understand the response of the author, the patients who only showed up for a single visit were included in the analysis. It would be preferable to estimate the frequency of these patients.

3. On page 9, under section data analysis, the author says “patients who only showed-up for a single visit (failed to return since their first visit) were categorized under less than one month follow-up time”. This means that these patients are no longer LTFU? In addition, rather than putting explanations in brackets, the author should make clear sentences including all the pertinent information.

4. The definition of LTFU is unclear, long and confusing. It would be better to add a diagram as illustration.

5. I still consider that interactions between variables should be verified for more credibility of results.

6. Table 3 results should be presented as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables n total N n (%) OR 95% CI</th>
<th>N n total N n (%) OR 95% CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crude OR (95% CI)</td>
<td>Adjusted OR (95% CI)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Thank you, to attach the revised version of the paper and a detailed letter responding to each of the observations made by the reviewers. All the revisions in the text should be in bold and underlined.