Reviewer's report

Title: Perceptions of consent, permission structures and approaches to the community: a rapid ethical assessment performed in North West Cameroon.

Version: 2
Date: 24 August 2014

Reviewer: raffaella ravinetto

Reviewer's report:

The comments of the two reviewers have been generally well addressed.

Minor essential revisions:

1) Check the first sentence in the background "The informed consent process is one of communication between researchers...": one word is missing?

2) Check the sentence at page 3 "It is recommended that information is given in simple, uncomplicated language over a period of time": an appropriate period of time?

3) The sentence "A table 1 presents the main findings per theme obtained in this study" should be moved from the Conclusion to the Results

Discretionary revisions:

1) Concerning the sentence at page 3 "In addition, research participants may not have the scientific literacy to understand information sheet templates developed in more developed countries, [14, 15]...", this reviewer would replace "in more developed countries" with "in different cultural contexts" (the same may be true also among different "developed countries" with different cultural backgrounds)

2) The discussion addresses in details the challenges represented by the role of the fon, and less in details those represented by the role of the head of the households (the father). This reviewer found these findings quite interesting, i.e. the father is seen as one who should consent because he is the one who will take action if something goes wrong. Thus, what appears at first sight as just paternalism or a rigid family structure, is also linked to the concept of "responsibility". This could be discussed more in details (but it is up to the authors, depending on whether they find this discretionary remark pertinent).

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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