Reviewer's report

Title: Very low risk of attrition among adults on antiretroviral therapy in the Rwandan national program: A retrospective cohort analysis of 6, 12, and 18 month outcomes.

Version: 3 Date: 9 June 2014

Reviewer: Alemayehu Amberbir

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written descriptive report from Rwanda of the levels and determinants of attrition among adult patients receiving ART in health facilities. The paper addressed an area of public health importance and well written. However, issues include:

Major compulsory revisions:
1. The sampling strategy is a little confusing to me. A figure depicting the sampling techniques used at each stage and facility would be more informative to readers.
2. Is there any difference in attrition rate between those enrolled in a public health facility vs. those at faith based health facility? This may have programmatic implication.
3. A power calculation (not post-hoc) would be useful to include in the manuscript.
4. Is there any difference in baseline characteristics between those who lost to follow up and those who died?
5. What is performance based financing mean in this context? I think, this needs to be explained a little more in order to interpret the findings.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Is a population attrition rate of 6.8% very low? Very low compared to what given the higher CD4 levels at ART initiation in this cohort. I suggest toning down this conclusion including from the title.
2. Table 1 for age; is the p-value overall or p for trend? If the former, please include p-value for trend.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.