Reviewer's report

Title: Adherence to antiretroviral therapy during pregnancy and the first year postpartum among women in Ukraine

Version: 1 Date: 5 May 2014

Reviewer: Marina Giuliano

Reviewer's report:

This paper addresses the important issue of drug adherence in women in the pre- and post-delivery periods. Some clarifications are needed.

Major compulsory revisions

1. Methods. Page 5. Lines 101-105. The authors mention participation rates but then there is no information about them in the results section (only a note at the end of the discussion, lines 319-320).

2. Methods. Line 106. The authors state that around one fifth of the women continue ART after delivery and that many of the remainder discontinue it because not meeting the criteria for treatment. Are all the women included in the postnatal survey on ART?

3. Methods. Lines 109-110. The authors state that characteristics of survey participants were compared with those of women who did not participate but there is no comparison in the results section (Table 2).

4. Lines 161-162. It is not clear what the denominators refer to.

5. Lines 163-166. The authors comment here only the antenatal data, but there is no comment on the postnatal data. No statistically significant difference?

6. Lines 208-210. Lines 217-222. The authors comment on the impact of HIV disclosure. This information should be added to Table 4. The same for the information about women unsure of ART effectiveness and the use of ZDVm, not included in Table 4.

7. The authors should also comment in the discussion on the two different measures for adherence that they have used: the CASE tool and the n. of missed pills (differences/similarities in the findings using the two measures).

Minor essential revisions

8. Abstract. Lines 17-18. The authors should modify “self-efficacy” to “ART-related self-efficacy”.

Discretionary revisions

9. Introduction. Page 4. Lines 58-63. The two sentences about ART in the general population are not strictly related to the topic of this paper and could be omitted.

10. Reference n. 26 is not accessible.
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