Reviewer's report

Title: The cost of uncomplicated childhood fevers to Kenyan households: implications for reaching international access

Version: 1 Date: 3 July 2006

Reviewer: Umberto D'Alessandro

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

This is an extremely interesting and challenging paper looking at the household cost of an episode of fever in children under 5 in Kenya. It shows that the current situation can be improved without any additional cost to the household. The paper is well written though it is sometimes difficult to follow. Indeed, the text refers to the tables and figures but the link between the 2 is not always obvious. For example, at the beginning of page 8 it is stated that the opportunity cost of caretaker time account for 85% of the total estimated average cost, i.e. 193.20/227.66= 85%. The authors might consider adding (193.20/227.66) after the 85%. There are plenty of examples like this in the text and the advice to the authors is to review the text and make it more readable and obvious for the reader.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests