Reviewer's report

Title: Barriers and enablers to management of tuberculosis treatment in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: A qualitative study.

Version: 1 Date: 24 September 2007

Reviewer: Sally Theobald

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

The author must respond to these before a decision on publication can be reached. For example, additional necessary experiments or controls, statistical mistakes, errors in interpretation.

- Minor Essential Revisions

The author can be trusted to make these. For example, missing labels on figures, the wrong use of a term, spelling mistakes

1. Ensure all statements are referenced e.g. first sentence
2. Discuss the methodological basis of the studies outlined in the background and use these to justify your own choice of methodology
3. At the beginning of the methods section justify why qualitative research methods were most appropriate for the study and why the particular methods you chose - interviews and FGDs
4. Justify why you chose the research sites you did
5. Explain in the discussion the implications of your research participants not fulfilling the formal criteria of a defaulter
6. You need to have a section at the end of the methods that summarises the mechanisms you deployed to enhance the trustworthiness of the research project as whole
7. Put quotes in italics
8. Present a diagram at the beginning of the results section to demonstrate the interplay of factors
9. You need to clarify the 4 points under crisis released due to fulfilment of the intensive phase - where is the data that supports this. Is this from a synthesis of your findings be explicit
10. The implications for practice needs improving and better structuring. You have some very powerful data that captures patient’s difficult paths to treatment. Use this section to really synthesise and summarise this and make better use of the international literature advocating for decentralisation of DOT to family/community members and the development of patient centred approaches.
You also need to highlight if there have been any changes to how DOT is administered in the Ethiopian context as it is now 5 years since you did the research.

11. The whole article needs proof reading

- Discretionary Revisions

These are recommendations for improvement which the author can choose to ignore. For example clarifications, data that would be useful but not essential.

1. I would suggest that the case studies presented under the section 'interplay of factors' come at the beginning of the results section and are presented as case studies in shaded boxes. Key issues emerging from these could then be captured and discussed under the 7 thematic headings in the results i.e. as found in case study x, stigma was experienced...

Please note that both the comments entered here and answers to the questions below constitute the report, bearing your name, that will be forwarded to the authors and published on the site if the article is accepted.

2. suggest rigid routines as a heading also includes attitudes of health staff

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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