Reviewer's report

Title: The EPICS Trial: Enabling Parents to Increase Child Survival through the introduction of community-based health interventions in rural Guinea Bissau

Version: 1 Date: 6 July 2009

Reviewer: S V Subramanian

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My main concern with this protocol is too much is packed into the "intervention" - making both the delivery (and monitoring of it) of the intervention as well as evaluation quite difficult. Otherwise it seems fine although I am sure some of these have been tested before and a table documenting previous efforts in other settings should be summarized.

Also, I am not convinced by the quality of the control - which will get intervention down the line? How are the control districts? Spillovers in such interventions is inevitable messing up the only benefit of randomization - which is randomization.