Reviewer's report

Title: Mortality and loss-to-follow-up during the pre-treatment period in an antiretroviral therapy programme under normal health service conditions in Uganda.

Version: 1 Date: 9 June 2009

Reviewer: Martin Dedicoat

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript is of a descriptive study of experience with ART roll out in Jinja Uganda. The authors clearly describe their experience with screening and preparing patients for ART. Loss of patients before starting ART is explored in detail.

The data are very useful for other large ARV programmes in Africa in finding ways ensure more eligable patients complete ART preparation and start treatment.

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? Yes
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? Yes
3. Are the data sound? Yes
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? Yes
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? Yes
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? Yes
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? Yes
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? Very much so.
9. Is the writing acceptable? Yes.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.