Reviewer’s report

Title: Engaging the community in the standard of care debate in a vaginal microbicide trial in Mwanza, Tanzania

Version: 1 Date: 13 August 2009

Reviewer: Gita Ramjee

Reviewer’s report:

Discretionary Revisions

Specific comments and questions

1. Perhaps the authors could clarify community stakeholder’s reaction to partial success of their SOC plan and how did this impact on future research in the community?

2. Was the referral of care for trial participants seen as “adding burden” to the existing care infrastructure? Was this discussed and addressed?

3. Was feed-back given to community at large on the issues of HIV and stigma experienced by the research staff?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I am one of the investigators at the South African site for the MDP 310 trial.