Reviewer's report

Title: High Acceptability for Cell Phone Text Messages to Improve Health-Related Communication among HIV-infected patients in rural Uganda: A cross-sectional survey study

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Reviewer: Cristian Pop-Eleches

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written paper providing evidence that short message service (SMS) for communication of laboratory results is highly acceptable among HIV-positive persons in a resource-limited setting. This is certainly a topic of great interest, especially in an African context where patient-provider interactions face many constraints. The data evaluated and described in this paper is based on 50 structured interviews of patients at a clinic in Mbarara, Uganda. All the different sections of the paper are well written. The results are clearly described and the discussion of the limitations is thorough.

I only have one comment: While the analysis suggests that concerns about confidentiality and disclosure of HIV status were infrequent, it can also be argued that disclosure can have large negative consequences even if they affect just a small fraction of patients. It would have been nice to see a more detailed discussion about available mechanisms that can address privacy issues that arise from SMS communication.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I have co-authored a paper with two of the authors (Haberer and Bangsberg) in the past.