Reviewer's report

Title: Applying the Theory of Planned Behaviour to explain HIV testing in antenatal settings in Addis Ababa- A cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 26 May 2011

Reviewer: Opondo Awiti Ujjii

Reviewer's report:

First, I want to commend the authors for applying the TPB theory to analyze antenatal HIV testing. This is an article of great importance due to the importance of the topic and illustrating the wide coverage of antenatal HIV testing and shortcomings in preparing pregnant women to take a HIV test. I recommend this article for publication contingent upon some revisions.

Minor essential Revisions

1. In the introduction first line "Change of individual behavior is of particular importance in HIV prevention......." Please identify the changes implied to. Is it decision making, sexual risk behavior etc?

2. Introduction first paragraph - be clear that the PMTCT component 3 is being referred to. As the authors may know PMTCT has 4 components and preventing mother-to-child transmission from a woman living with HIV to her child involves the "array of interventions" listed.

3. Introduction second paragraph - more could be added on the debate of opt-out and opt-in HIV testing. The sentence "Many researchers also argue that most pregnant women in resource poor setting ......" has only one reference. Is this a review article?

4. Introduction first paragraph - Opt-out approach to HIV testing was revised in 2007 not 2004 as implied by the authors.

5. On page 7 the authors need to be clear if these were women on their fit antenatal visit during the current pregnancy or ever.

6. Methods- study design. can the authors clearly outline the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Data on the excluded / lost to follow-up should be included and a description how different those lost to follow-up were from those studied. Similar information should be given on those 49 who refused to participate.

7. Discussion page 22 first paragraph - " It was also sown that women who attended individual pre-test counseling were 1.85 times less likely to test for HIV compared to women who attended group pre-test information." this result is about the dynamics of individual and group counseling and NOT insufficient counseling as discussed by the authors. How could they know this if no observations were done or qualitative studies performed during the counseling session? I expect that women would find it difficult to refuse to test especially when other women in the room were testing. It is the need to fit in and conform to
what the group was doing rather than the information conveyed by the counselor (see Awiti-Ujiji et al 2011). A majority came back for test results that is good but many women usually exert control by not enrolling for PMTCT or dropping out, data that could be interesting for the authors to look into in future.

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

**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