Reviewer’s report

Title: Healthcare provision for HIV co-infected tuberculosis patients in rural Zambia: an observational cohort study at primary care centers

Version: 5 Date: 3 June 2013

Reviewer: Monde Muyoyeta

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well written paper and makes easy reading. It also contributes important information to the performance of linkages in TB and HIV services and how these affect care for patients.

1. Major compulsory revisions

The authors do not comment at all on outcomes of the TB patients. This is important to make the paper more complete. Some patients may have died before enrolment to ART and this information could be available in the TB registers. Some patients could have defaulted TB treatment or been transferred out and this may also affect the outcome of ART referral. The authors should address this and possibly consider including some TB treatment outcomes as explanatory variables in the logistic regression analysis for factors associated with enrolment in care.

Including TB treatment outcomes may also explain why those previously treated for TB were unlikely to enrol in ART

2. Minor Essential Revisions

- Consistent use of (%) throughout after numbers will make easier reading
- Reference 1 should be replaced with a newer reference (2012 global TB report is available)
- Reference 2 should also be replaced with newer references, information is available from WHO or UNAIDS report

3. Discretionary Revisions

-it would be good for the authors to consider including 2011 data to see if the improvement in enrolment is sustained

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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