Reviewer's report

Title: Estimating age-based antiretroviral therapy costs for HIV-infected children in resource-limited settings based on World Health Organization weight-based dosing recommendations

Version: 1 Date: 19 October 2013

Reviewer: Wasana Prasitsuebsai

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript is very interesting and well written. Information for this paper would be very helpful for pediatricians and policy makers worldwide. There are few comments for your consideration.

Major Compulsory Revisions - none

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Abstract: ART was used at the first time in the last sentence. Please consider to either change to ARV or antiretroviral therapy.

2. Background, page 5: The authors mentioned "CHAI" and "PEPFAR" at first time here. Please express its full word after the first abbreviation. In addition, the authors explained more about "CHAI" in the Methods. Maybe, information of "CHAI" can be added more in the Background section.

3. Methods, page 7: Please add full word of "WHO" after your first abbreviation. In contrast, please remove CHAI's full word if it's already presented in the Background after revision.

4. Methods, page 8: The authors explained how to calculate the monthly cost for each medication by WHO weigh band and used "X" in the sentence which made it a bit hard to follow. Please consider to make it in a separate line to show the formula.

5. Methods, page 8: again, please check all abbreviation (for example CDC, LMS) and add their full word after the first abbreviation.

6. Methods: in this paper, the only region that was mentioned is Africa. It would be more useful if it is shown in this paper that information from this study can be generalized for any region or country. Please consider to add few information about recommendation or drug availability in Asia since several resource limited settings are from Asia as well. In addition, please also check if there is any different of current recommendation or drug availability that you might need to add in your analysis or not. If not, please state that it is not different among region. Most of the country in Asia could not access to ABC. Please use information from TAphOD network paper for your information.

7. Results, page 12: please use GPRM if you have already abbreviated in the Methods.
8. All tables: please consider to divide ARV in to NRTI, NNRTI, PI and FDC. But it can be remained the same if the authors decided to not change.
9. All tables: please check if there is any word that is needed to spell its full word.
10. All tables: please reorder each drug according to formulation and strength. Now, some ARVs were listed from higher strength to lower strength. The rest was ordered in the opposite way.
11. Table 4: the authors added clarification of information under the Table 4. However, it would be nice to move this information to the Methods.
12. Table 5: please check all words in "brackets" under "Drug Product" column, for example, liquid adult tab or pedi adult tab. I do not understand these words. But explanation under the table was understandable.
13. Table 7: What is "NR" and "NA"? Please add their full words.
14. Discussion, page 13 and 14: Please use “GPRM” if it’s already abbreviated.
15. Discussion: it would be very useful if the authors can mention about current recommendation from WHO and different practice among each region and link to this study.
16. It is not clear in this paper about which type of drug is your price reference either “patent” or “generic” ARVs or both. It would be very useful to clarify this information in the Methods.

**Level of interest:** An exceptional article

**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.