Reviewer's report

Title: Acceptance of illness and satisfaction with life among malaria patients in Rivers State, Nigeria.

Version: 3 Date: 4 January 2014

Reviewer: William Brieger

Reviewer's report:

I am still not convinced that the satisfaction with life scale is appropriate for a common acute illness one treats in an outpatient clinic. The scale may elicit responses, but one cannot be sure that these are reflecting the patients perception of the illness or of his/her overall situation in life. The explanation that the authors also found examples of application of this scale to emergency/casualty room patients is still not comparable since those include life threatening and life altering injuries. The authors also bring up another important point in their limitations that the instrument was not translated/culturally adaptable and this again could account for the findings not reflecting what is being sought. Since we do not really know what the patients thought they were responding to, we can doubt the overall validity of the findings. There is a plethora of literature on cultural perceptions and responses to malaria illness from Nigeria and Africa more generally, and if the authors were not able to 'pre-test' and translate their instrument culturally, they could at least have reviewed this literature on malaria cultural perceptions to better situate their own findings. This broader culture-related literature would also be valuable in interpreting the findings in the Discussion section. Overall the discussion/conclusion should address the relevance of this scale that has been used primarily in chronic care to an acute outpatient condition.

Finally I have a concern than none of the authors appear to be indigenous to the study area. It is usually good form, if not ethically required to include at least one co-author who is a local colleague. Obviously adding a name now would be simply window dressing, but it is a concern that should be borne in mind for future research by this team.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.'