Reviewer's report

Title: Compliance with Referrals for Non-acute Child Health Conditions: Evidence from the Longitudinal ASENZE Study in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa

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Reviewer: Tinuade Ogunlesi

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MAJOR COMPULSOY REVISIONS - None

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

(a) "Child Health Conditions" in the title should be replaced with "Childhood Disorders"

(b) Authors need to harmonise the nomenclature used in the manuscript: "sub-acute" is NOT the same as "non-acute"

(c) Abstract: In the conclusion, "....Household education level and stability .......may be associated with referral....." 'be associated with' shoud be replaced with 'influence'

(d) Methods: Grading of educational qualification should be decribed. It may be confusing to generally accept "anaemia" as a non-acute condition. Severe anaemia is definitely an emergency. Therefore, authors need to specify what severity of anaemia is under focus in the manuscript.

(e) Discussion: For this manuscript to be useful to clinicians and health policy makers, authors need to suggest practical ways of tackling the identified impediments to compliance with referral. Although, the research did not apparently seek to find out why respondents did not comply with referrals but issues like distance, cost, stability of health services particularly in terms of closures during industrial disputes should be highlighted. This should provide a guide for subsequent studies of this nature.

(f) In Table 3, why was "Child gender" include in the logistic regression model since bivariate analysis did not suggest any relationship with gender.

DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS - None

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

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