Reviewer's report

Title: Increased fairness in priority setting processes within the health sector: the case of Kapiri-Mposhi District in Zambia

Version: 1 Date: 26 July 2012

Reviewer: Francois Dionne

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Major compulsory revisions

There are two major revisions that are needed to correct fundamental weaknesses in the manuscript as it is now. There is no point in making small corrections until these major revisions are made.

1- We need to properly set up Accountability for Reasonableness (AFR) in the context of the ongoing priority setting activities. AFR is not a tool for priority setting as suggested on page 10 (At the onset of the project, the District Medical Officer (DMO) immediately attempted to adopt AFR as a guiding tool for district priority setting), it is a set of conditions that can be used to guide the implementation of a priority setting process (composed of different steps and guidelines). There is an ongoing confusion about the role of AFR in the study.

2- The presentation of the analysis of the impact of the intervention is done in a very confusing manner. AFR has 4 conditions, why not present how the priority setting process rated before and after the intervention with respect to each of the 4 conditions. As it stand now the presentation of the results is disjointed and disorganized which leads to general confusion for the reader.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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