Reviewer's report

Title: Efficacy of different strategies to treat anemia in children: A randomized clinical trial.

Version: 2 Date: 12 April 2010

Reviewer: Kerry Schulze

Reviewer's report:

This revision of the manuscript improves considerably on the original and make the data much more understandable and intriguing. Comments are as follows:

Compulsory revisions: There needs to be some interpretation of the ferritin results in the discussion--some speculation as to why it increased so dramatically in the IS group and, surprisingly, decreased in the IFS and, to a lesser extent, FW, groups. If these supplement strategies are not maintained, it seems like the IFS children are likely to become anemic again more rapidly than the other groups.

Minor essential revisions:

p 8, line 19: "3,5mL 5 mL" doesn't make sense
p11, line 7: "found not to be significant"

p11, line 13: "characteristics were not significantly different" or "characteristics did not differ"

p11, line 21: sentence "Subgroup analyses in hemoglobin response showed same effects than analyses in overall children" is very unclear

Table 2-4: MMS here is defined as Multiple micronutrient "syrup" rather than "supplement"; similarly IFS has a more extensive definition than that used throughout the paper. Be consistent. In the table of abbreviations those descriptions could be defined. For example, MMS multiple micronutrient supplement (prepared as syrup), etc.

Table 4: the last column was cut off on my copy

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.