Reviewer's report

Title: Increasing Access to Subsidized Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy through Accredited Drug Dispensing Outlets in Tanzania

Version: 2 Date: 15 December 2010

Reviewer: Prashant Yadav

Reviewer's report:

Major/essential minor revisions

1. Unlike other studies, the authors use a method of collecting ADDO register data not through retail audits but by asking ADDO dispensers to come to a central location in the community. Since this technique considerably lowers the logistical costs of program evaluation, it is important that the authors describe the operational modalities of this technique in some more detail including how were the ADDOs dispensers incentivized to come to the central location, how was the location determined, what day/time was chosen, how was the triangulation carried out etc. This will help other field researchers utilize (or at least evaluate the cost/benefits) of this technique better.

2. The authors should compare the availability and uptake of ACTs as presented on p16 and p18 with the uptake and availability of other ACT affordability pilots in Tanzania. This will allow a reader of the journal to obtain broader research insights from this study such as why one method works better than the other etc.

Discretionary Revisions

1. The authors mention in the conclusion that findings from this study apply beyond malaria treatment and to overall access to medicines. However, the authors do not explicitly present and show insights for how the results of this research could help access to medicines more generally. A few simple analogies would be helpful.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests