Reviewer's report

Title: Malaria hospitalization between 1999 and 2008 across Kenya

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Reviewer: Lawrence Ndekelezi Kazembe

Reviewer's report:

General Comments
This study considered the pattern of malaria admissions in Kenya for a period of about 10 years. Because of limitations of data, the authors used data from 17 representative health facilities in ecologically divergent areas across Kenya. The authors used autoregressive models to adjust explain the changing pattern in malaria admissions. The study has several limitations and am glad to note that many of these limitations have been acknowledged in the discussion. Its an interesting paper among those of related field.

The paper, in the introduction, did acknowledge and highlight the fact that most studies attributed the changing pattern in malaria morbidity to a number of factors. As such, I was expecting to see a model that does related malaria hospitalization data related to such factors. This I find to be a major gap in the paper. It remained therefore mostly descriptive epidemiologically, probably this is the first step, and future research will consider why malaria admissions have been changing.

Minor comments

Abstract
1. The paper should consider including some confidence intervals or range for the admission rates cited and the reduction percentage.

Introduction
2. page 4, top paragraph, last line, there is mention of 100 of 120. Can they justify this figure.

Which journal?: Appropriate or potentially appropriate for BMC Medicine: an article of importance in its field

What next?: Accept for publication in BMC Medicine after discretionary revisions

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