Reviewer's report

Title: A cluster-randomized trial to determine the impact of hotspot-targeted interventions on malaria transmission

Version: 4 Date: 19 December 2012

Reviewer: Charlie Goldsmith

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In the revision, the authors have claimed that all the changes have been made or stated reasonably why they were not. However, many of the changes were indeed NOT made so one has to wonder if the revised manuscript was checked by the person who wrote the response letter. Issues NOT revised from the last review were:

1. Item 6. One IQR was changed but not the other. See P(age) 6, l(ine) 126 where the text could read [houses (first quartile – third quartile 1-3)…].
2. Item 12. Spaces between numbers and inequalities. Not done on P 7, l 158; P 21, l 484.
3. Item 17. Many other instances not changed. P 11, l 259; P 12, l 274; P 18, l 422; P 20, l 458; P 24, l 561.
4. Item 22. P 16, l 373 and 374 still not adequately described to be reproducible.
5. Item 34. Trials likes to publish up to the first 30 authors before using [et al]. This was not done for R(eference)s 2, 9, 20, 25, 27, 28, 32, 50, and 54.

The following issues were detected in the new reading of the revised manuscript.
6. P 8, l 171 uses a different notation than l 184. Also P 37, l 939 twice.
7. P 10, l 228 and P 14, l 320 use two different temperatures to define febrile.
8. P 11, l 251. Should this source read [Sigma, Aldrich, UK]?
9. P 14, l 322. Which city?
10. P 20, l 460. Replace [Florida] by [FL]. Also noted before!
11. P 21, l 496 to 502. Provide a R or cite the software used to compute this sample size.
12. P 22, l 509. Drop [In order] and capitalize [To] as the words are redundant in English.
13. P 22 and 23, l 519 to 5353. Provide a R as not all readers will be familiar with these types of analyses.
14. P 26, l 611. Replace [Recent] by [2012]. The word loses its recentness with publication and time.