Reviewer's report

Title: Patient- and delivery-system factors related to acceptance of HIV counseling and testing services among TB patients in South Africa: A qualitative study with community health workers and program managers

Version: 1 Date: 16 September 2010

Reviewer: Audrey Prost

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MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS
1. p.5 line : ‘implement HCT’ rather than ‘implement of HCT’, or change to ‘implementation’

2. p.5 Were CHWs and programme managers ever NOT viewed as an important part of healthcare delivery? Consider revising this sentence.

3. p.5 By definition, CHWs deliver services in the community, not only in clinical settings. Consider changing the final sentence in first paragraph to ‘clinical and community care settings’?

4. p.12 Delete ‘extra full stop’

5. p.13 remove ‘were’ and editorial content!

6. p.18 the patient-level factors hindering HCT uptake (fear of HIV and of HIV stigma) mentioned in the results section and here in the discussion reflect those mentioned in qualitative studies with patients in South Africa and elsewhere. It is worth stating this here and adding some references to earlier studies.

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISION
7. p.20

The discussion section is currently very generic and makes several statements that might seem self-evident to readers of Implementation Science. Might it help to focus the discussion section more specifically on the findings and discuss (a) how similar findings are between qualitative studies on barriers and facilitators to HCT with patients and those with lay counselors and programme managers when it comes to patient-level barriers; (b) the need to plan service content and delivery with context and patient population in mind; give example of other services in SA and elsewhere (for example HIV testing in maternity settings for PMTCT). You might also highlight practical ways to address patient and service-level barriers to HCT in this context.

Note: The methods section in this paper is excellent and the authors should be commended for this.
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 declare that I have no competing interests.