Reviewer's report

Title: New Highly Active Antiretroviral drugs and generic drugs for the treatment of HIV infection: a budget impact analysis on the Italian National Health Service

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Reviewer: Mohammed Lamorde

Reviewer's report:

This is an important and timely paper that reports the modeled budget impact, over a 5 year timeframe, of a transition to generic antiretroviral drugs in the Italian National Health Service, and the introduction of new proprietary antiretroviral drugs.

Major Compulsory Revisions
None

Minor Essential Revisions

Methods: Paragraph 3, the authors could provide more detail on why introduction of some drugs would have a greater on drug consumption than others. For example switching from a coformulated branded drug to separate pill generic drugs resulting in a higher pill burden could lead to lower rates of a switch to the branded drug.

2nd to the last paragraph: "Generic drugs cost is estimated to be 80% of the branded equivalent’s cost in the first semester in which it enter the model and 50% of the branded equivalent’s cost in the following semesters"

How do the authors arrive at these estimates? Please provide a reference or justification.

Minor Issues Not for Publication
The manuscript needs a review for language/grammar

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

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