Reviewer's report

Title: Good continuum of HIV care in Belgium despite weaknesses in retention and linkage to care among migrants

Version: 3 Date: 8 June 2015

Reviewer: David Burns

Reviewer's report:

• Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. P7, line 223: “…between 62 and 86% of those diagnosed with HIV…” appears incorrect. Did you mean “between 62 and 72%”?

2. P8, line 234: Please clarify what is meant by “This is supplemented by collaborations with
   a. prevention and testing associations that contributes to the low attrition along the care continuum.” If the benefit of these collaborations is limited to their contribution to linkage to care, then it would be preferable to state it in that manner.

3. P10 and following: The authors note that “attrition in the early stages of linkage and retention” and undiagnosed persons are likely to be contributing disproportionately to onward transmission. If there are efforts in place (or in planning) to further identify these populations so they can be targeted more effectively for HIV prevention, testing, and care (eg, combined phylogenetic and epidemiologic analyses that characterize individuals in acute transmission clusters), it would be helpful to include these options in this discussion.

4. P12, line 336 and following: Would move these data to the results section.

• Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore)

1. P2, Abstract, Results: The most important summary statement is that among all persons diagnosed with HIV, 62% had an undetectable viral load. Eg, “…of whom 86% had an undetectable viral load (<50 copies/ml). Among all persons diagnosed with HIV, an estimated 62% were virally suppressed.”

2. P9, line 263: A valuable suggestion that might be worth expanding on. Is it possible to estimate to which countries HIV+ persons are most likely to emigrate? Ideally, this could lead to better coordination of continuity of care with countries as far away as Africa, particularly with those that may have important economic and cultural links with Belgium.

3. P9, line 269: Another valuable suggestion. If there are resources in place that enable following such cases up and offering partner services, it would be worth noting.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests