Reviewer’s report

Title: Retention in care and adherence to HIV and AIDS treatment in Anambra State Nigeria

Version: 0 Date: 20 May 2019

Reviewer: Hans Walter Prozesky

Reviewer's report:

This is a cross-sectional study covering an important topic and generally well done. There are however a number of issues:

1) Please move the section covering Ethics approval and informed consent to early in the Methods section (The reader is left wondering if this was done and this is only mentioned right at the end)
3) The journal abbreviation of Reference 19 should be "Trop Med Int Health".
4) Background, Page 4, L3: Delete "from one person to another".
5) Background, Page 4, L12: Remove "a" before "good viral suppression", consider replacing "good" with alternative, e.g. "adequate", Insert "a" before "predictor".
6) Background, Page 4, L20: "treamtne" should be "treatment".
7) Background, Page 5, L1: Add "for a" before "PLWHA"
8) Background, Page 5, L6: "secondary level hospital" should be "secondary level hospitals"
9) Methods, Page 6, L4: "selected from the list of hospitals providing HIV treatment in the state sector"
10) Methods, Page 6, L11: "(patients who commenced...)
11) Methods, Page 6, L12: "were included in the study if they had completed at least one year of treatment in their current hospital"
12) Methods, Page 6, L15: Replace "on admission" with "admitted".
13) Methods, Page 6, L21: Add "the" before "patient adherence record".
14) Measurement of Variables, Page 7, L5: The three months method is more sensitive compared to the four-month method..."
15) Measurement of variables, Page 7, L16: Replace "has" with "have" in "The details of the calculation has earlier been documented".
16) Data analysis, Page 8, L5: "Chi-squared test"
17) Data analysis, Page 8, L5: Replace "the p value" with "a p value".
18) Results, Page 9, L1: "Results"
19) Results, Page 9, L3: "had spent a comparable period"
20) Results, Page 9, L8: Replace 'hospital types" with "groups of patients".
21) Results, Page 9, L9: Add "dose of" to "a medication", i.e.: "reported missing at least a dose of
medication".
22) Results, Page 9, L14: Replace "drugs" with "medicines" - "drugs" may be misinterpreted in this context.
23) Results, Page 10, L10: "a 0.641 odds ratio of…"
24) Results, Page 10, L14: Add "ratios" after "odds".
25) Discussion, Page 12, L10: Consider replacing "outstripping" with "excessive demand".
26) Discussion, Page 12, L16: Delete "being used by government to provide the services".
27) Discussion, Page 12, L19: Consider replacing "hospital types" with "types of hospital".
28) Discussion, Page 12, L22: Replace "retain substantial" with "retain a substantial".
29) Discussion, Page 12, L23: Replace "These findings further support the expansion of the treatment centres to include private health facilities that meet the criteria to provide comprehensive HIV care and treatment" with "These findings support the addition of private facilities that meet the criteria…"
30) Discussion, Page 13, L7-L8: Delete 'the levels reported in".
31) Discussion, Page 13, L10: Replace "an adherence level" with "adherence levels" and add "respectively" to the end of the sentence.
32) Discussion, Page 13, L11: Replace "78.4%" with "an adherence level of 78.4%".
33) Discussion, Page 13, L12: replace "get" with "obtain" and edit the whole sentence: e.g. "a composite measure combining the patient self report, etc was used to obtain/calculate the global composite adherence in the study...".
34) Discussion, Page 13, L14: Replace "85%" with "85% level of adherence".
35) Discussion, Page 13, L16: Replace "lower adherence level recorded" with "recording of a lower adherence level".
36) The title of Table 1 should rather be "Participants' reporting missed doses and reasons for missed doses" rather than "Participants' reporting missed doses and reasons for that".

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.
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