Reviewer’s report

Title: "Stool frequency recording in Severe Acute Malnutrition ('StoolSAM'): An agreement study comparing maternal recall versus direct observation using diapers."

Version: 1 Date: 14 Jan 2017

Reviewer: Charles Larson

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the revised manuscript. Further revisions are required.

Abstract:

Background: The 500,000 deaths attributed to SAM requires a primary reference (do not reference review articles).

This paper does not address the diagnosis of SAM. The authors need to be very clear about this. The study addresses maternal recall of stool frequency in admitted patients with SAM + co-morbidity (thus cited reference 8 is misleading).

Text:

Background: See above. Please revise accordingly.

Results: While providing sensitivity and specificity in table is OK, the text must address P&NPVs. Please revise.

No CONSORT figure has been provided. This is needed to clarify the confusion with # enrolled and reasons for exclusion/non-entry.

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

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If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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