Reviewer's report

**Title:** TB treatment delays and associated factors within the Zimbabwe National Tuberculosis programme

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 22 September 2013

**Reviewer:** Sayoki Mfinanga

**Reviewer's report:**

1. The description on study participants and sampling: In the multistage sampling, it is not clear on whether stratification was done to ensure an equal chance of selecting primary, secondary and tertiary health facilities. Also stratification into rural and urban facilities is not clear. The overrepresentation of district/mission hospitals and underrepresentation of primary health care facilities should be justified.

2. A minor correction is needed on results section, under Health system delays and associated factors; the [AOR 3.34, 95% CI 1.11-10.03, p=0.031] should be changed to [aOR 3.34, 95% CI 1.11-10.03, p=0.031]. Also on discussion paragraph two: “Whilst the majority of our study participants were rural patients, distance to a DOT facility was not associated with patient delay and in fact those taking a longer time taken to reach a DOT facility were less likely to experience patient delays.” The word “taken” should be deleted.

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

**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