Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 13 December 2014

Reviewer: Chandrashekhar Sreeramareddy

Reviewer's report:

Most of my comments have been addressed. However, it is not sure why authors want to keep seemingly redundant tables 2 & 3 and tables 4 and 4.

Authors rebut that they would change again the cut off rather than used durations (days) as continous variables in their analyses as they are not clear about what type of multivariate analysis to be used and how the results should be interpreted and in relation to what reference. I suggest the authors to reconsider this by consulting a statistician. Most likely, durations should be included as continuous varibales in the models. interpretations should be made using beta-coefficients and their signs as + or - alog with p-values.

Also presenting durations as medians (with quartiles), in the tables 2 and 4 (combined as suggested) would be beneficial. It would be nice to read rural patients had longer delays (in days) rather than comparing proportions % who had delays >30 days (as categorical) using a arbitrary cut-off.

One more limitation could be lack of information about those patient who went to private health facilities, missionary hospitals etc. since surveys interviews were done within NTP facilities, were any private health facilities also included? Do the patient interviewed represent those consulting private healthcare at least in urban and mission hospitals in both in urban and rural. Shoud be discussed in detail.

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: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests