Reviewer's report

Title: What influences the availability of medicines for community management of childhood illnesses in central Uganda: Implications for scaling up the integrated community case management programme.

Version: 1
Date: 25 September 2015
Reviewer: Jan Verbakel

Reviewer's report:

Dear Editor,

I have been very pleased to review the paper by Bagonza et al., entitled "What influences the availability of medicines for community management of childhood illnesses in central Uganda: Implications for scaling up the integrated community case management programme." The authors address a very important issue and have been able to collect data on availability of medicines in the community management of childhood illnesses. There are however some limitations to the analyses and reporting which need to be addressed.

General remarks:
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- The introduction can be shortened. It is a bit too long (especially line 101 to 113)
- please be consistent in spelling (e.g. stock outs or stock-outs)
- the study setting sub)section is too long (almost 1 page). Please reduce.
- the discussion section is mainly focussing on the main results of this cross-sectional study. The main results are repeating the results-section and should be summarized. On the other hand, the limitations section is 3 sentences long. This discrepancy should be addressed. I would suggest using the four main headings: Main findings, strengths and limitations, implications for research, implications for community care.

Please elaborate on the number of missing data and the potential effect on your results. For example, failure to register the stock adequately might have influenced your results.

Minor remark:
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- please avoid abbreviations in the abstract.
- line 37: delete "the" before managing.
- line 39: add "the" before Wakiso district.
- line 40: please specify how sampling was performed here.
- line 43: if you used multiple outcomes, use the term multivariate; if you used multiple variables to predict a binary outcome, use the term multivariable for the logistic regression model. Please revise throughout the manuscript.
- line 45: did age have a skewed distribution? If so, use Interquartile range as measurement of precision.
- line 46: add "respondents" after 33.
- line 47: delete "one" before month.
- line 50: "respiratory timer": do you mean breathing rate timer? or a chronometer?
- line 83: replace "mainly" by "such as"
- line 93: for "these" three diseases
- line 162: please mention total number of eligible respondents from which the random sample was taken.
- line 186: "no" instead of "none"
- line 205: please elaborate on the methods used to test for interactions, goodness of fit, discrimination testing & diagnostic statistics of the multivariable logistic regression.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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.