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: 29 September 2015

Reviewer: Anne-Marie Bagnall

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

1. The authors should report all the "determinants" that were examined in the text, not just the ones that showed a statistically significant association.

2. The authors should not infer causality from a statistically significant association. For example, appropriate drug prescriptions were found to be associated with drug availability. The authors have inferred that appropriate drug prescriptions is a determinant of drug availability when it could in fact be the other way around. Or the two could be associated without either factor being a cause of the other factor.

3. In the last paragraph of the Results section, the authors mention "controlling for confounders". They must state which confounders were controlled for.

4. The process of random sampling of participants is only mentioned in the Abstract - this should be described in the Methods section.

5. The statistical analysis should be checked by a statistician.

Minor essential revisions:

6. The first paragraph in the Background section refers to "the rate of decrease of under-five mortality" then states it is "insufficient to achieve significant reduction" - this needs clarifying.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests