Reviewer’s report

Title: HIV treatment regimens and adherence to national guidelines in Australia: an analysis of dispensing data from the Australian Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

Version: 0 Date: 04 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Eyitayo Owolabi

Reviewer’s report:

REVIEW REPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to review this article titled: HIV treatment regimens and adherence to national guidelines in Australia: an analysis of dispensing data from the Australian Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

This descriptive study addresses an important issue regarding prescribers’ adherence with the Australian guideline for ART. The objectives are clear, methodology also well delineated and results are clearly presented. The article is also well written.

However, there are just few suggestions/clarifications;

- I suggest the authors clearly demonstrate the significance of this study or strengthen the aspect describing the significance of prescribers adhering to guideline in terms of the benefit for patients' health, healthcare costs implication and other associated benefits.

- The authors did not do enough justice to background on the various measures of assessing adherence to guideline. What are the existing tools and why did the authors choose the measure they used?

- Even though a large number of prescriptions was shown to be in alignment with the national guideline, this was not optimal. The authors did not define or describe the standard considered to be acceptable, in that setting and probably in other settings to, or a global standard, if there is any. This will assist to know if the recorded percentage is acceptable or not.

- Also, did the authors evaluate the relationship with the use of the new guidelines with clinical outcomes?

Aside these comments, I recommend the article be accepted after the minor revision.

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

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
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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