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: 06 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Emmanuel Adewuyi

Reviewer’s report:

This study utilized nationally representative PBS data in assessing ART regimen being purchased in Australia and comparing same with the current guideline for HIV treatment in the country with a special consideration for co-occurring medical conditions. The subject is both interesting and important. The manuscript was well written. The statistics are mainly descriptive, but sufficiently rigorous and appropriate for achieving the stated objectives of the study. The conclusion is well supported by the data presented. I have minor observations as stated below.

- Page 11, lines 233 - 241: the percentages reported here were based on the ten most common regimens whereas, in Table 2, it was based on the total sample. This was a bit confusing. Since reference is being made to Table 2, I will suggest that the authors report what is on the Table or re-write the paragraph for better clarity.

- There were a few spelling mistakes that need to be corrected. For example, page 27, line 567: 'tenfovir' should be 'tenofovir'.

I am happy to recommend this work for acceptance.

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

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license ([http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal