Reviewer’s report

Title: Retention of HIV Exposed Infants in care at Arua Regional Referral Hospital, Uganda: a retrospective cohort study

Version: 0 Date: 02 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Benjamin Phelps

Reviewer's report:

Suggested minor essential revisions:

- Provide page numbers

- The article would benefit from a grammar review -there are minor mistakes throughout the manuscript

- The article first mentions the EID continuum of care in the introduction and refers to it throughout the paper, but never actually specifies what it is. It would help frame the paper by defining the EID CoC in the introduction.

- The introduction (p.4 line 47) provides a citation for Option B+ but never fully defines it. The authors should provide information on what it entails for the mother as well, as lifelong ART is one of the factors they evaluated and Option B+ includes ART.

- p.5 line 2 - Write out "World Health Organization" first and then provide the acronym

- p.6 lines 29-30 - Again, it is somewhat awkward to refer to a concept in another study and not provide substantial details. Rather than citing a separate study, provide a few sentences and cite them.

- p.9, line 22 - The math in this section (Retention of HEIs along the 18-months EID continuum of care) may be incorrect. Adding up all of the HEI lost, died, or transferred out, you get 85. 352-85=267, not 277; math in this section and in corresponding tables/figures needs to be checked.

- p.10, line 13 - the authors both write the numbers and the word for "170" - this should be written at "170".

- The authors need to add a conclusion of some kind.
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?
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Yes

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Needs some language corrections before being published

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