Reviewer’s report

Title: Compensation of subjects for participation in biomedical research in resource – limited settings: a discussion of practices in Malawi

Version: 0 Date: 21 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS: OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)? No - there are minor issues DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective? Yes - the approach is appropriate

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results? N/A - no experiments or analyses STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate? N/A - there are no statistics in this study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated? N/A - no results to interpret OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound? Probably - with minor revisions PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: The manuscript is well written and give an idea about the situation in Malawi in detail. It may be helpful to publish it to help investigators whether from the same country or different countries to deal with this issue. It may also help different low and middle income countries to set their guidelines. REQUESTED REVISIONS: In the Introduction section, It is advised to add one or two sentences describing the main objective of the manuscript. It is almost a review article describing the history of reimbursement of study participants and then describe the current situation ending with the recommendations and conclusion of the authors.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS: It is advised to clarify the role of the Ethics committee in revising and approving the amount of payment or compensation for study participants. The second paragraph of page 5 (Starting from line 16) needs a reference to be added.
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.

Unable to assess

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
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