Reviewer's report

Title: Health Facility Barriers to HIV Linkage and Retention in Western Kenya

Version: 2
Date: 21 October 2014

Reviewer: Jane JM Macha

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Minor Essential Revisions

Background
Line 7-8: could you provide proportions, to indicate how low is the linkage and retention and any changes over time, you could also highlight (provide some figures if available) to make it more objective as this is the main issue of the paper?

It will be good at the background to describe what is linkages and retention in the context of HIV

Methods
Data collection: what was the criteria for purposive sampling?

Study setting
Line 32: Satellite clinic, what are they? Are they similar to outreach clinics, explain what it is

Target population
Line 38: Community Health Workers: there are different types of these commonly there are volunteers and paid CHW, need to describe

Human subject protection
Line 48: indicate it was oral consent as you mentioned at line 60
Line 50-51: Need to clarify, was it during the interview of FGD session, when you used the first name, at the moment the sentence is not clear

Study procedures
Line 52: A bit confusing …maybe you need to rephrase the sentences to see the difference ………like showing that the study is nested in a bigger study and indicate why just few FGDs used in the analysis,

Line 57: You said demographic characteristics were only collected in the FGD, you need to say that in this section

Results
Could indicate whether the quotes of health workers were from the in-depth interview or FGD, these two methods could potentially generate different information, and indicate if there is a big different on the responses

Line 154: low staff to patient ratio can you provide the numbers to see how low
it is either data from the study or general data in the country, it might make more sense.

Line 175: Despite fear of disclosing patients information..........i am just wondering if the health facility physical structure were in a way that maintains confidentiality? could be of interest to add that information

HBCT: you need to spell this out i guess somewhere in the paper

Discussion

HIV is a sensitive topic, getting consent might be challenges, could you highlight how was the process of getting consent to HIV patients was? and in case of problems how did you deal with them and the limitations.

General Comment

Is a good peace of work, generating important issues that need some form of integrated system. So please read through and correct as suggested above.

Good luck

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that i have no competing interest