Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 3  Date: 27 November 2014

Reviewer: Nkoli E Ezumah

Reviewer’s report:

My comments on the corrections are indicated below each of the suggested corrections. The corrections are acceptable.

Major Compulsory Revisions: NONE

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Key words:
   (i) Add Barriers
   This was added

2. Background:
   1. There should be a definition/explanation of linkage and retention. It should not be assumed.
   This was effected

2. Editorial mistakes which need to be corrected.
   (i) Line 4: have been noted should be replaced with has been noted
   (ii) Line 22: Western of Kenya should read “western Kenya”
   These corrections were made

3. Methods
   The following editorial mistakes needs to be corrected.
   (i) Line 49: Privacy and confidentiality were assured not was assured
   The suggestion was effected

4. Results
   The following corrections need to be effected.
   (i) Line 81: The caption should read Factors that were unique to linkage
   (ii) Line 85: These was should be replaced with These were
   (iii) Line 122: from was repeated
   (iv) Line 167: The method of presenting the illustrative quotes was not clear. The salient findings should be specified before the corresponding quote is presented. For example on line 167 frustration should have been identified as a factor affecting retention before the statement “I can also add frustration…,”
   (v) Lines 174-175: Omission: Lack of confidentiality (of was omitted)
The issue raised is not just about communication dynamics but also depicts the negative attitude of caregivers to clients.

stupidity should be replaced with stupid
Health providers should be replaced with health provider
Omission: “Another thing is that there…”
All the suggested correction in this section were made

5. Discussions
The following corrections are necessary.
highlighting should be replaced with highlighted
Omission: The articles the and to are omitted. “There is the need to redefine need …”
Patients not Patient
influence not influences
viewed a should read viewed as
HIV ; should be replaced with HIV, which is
All the suggested corrections were made

Discretionary Revisions:
None

Level of interest: An article of importance 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 interests