Reviewer's report

Title: The Role of Institutions in the Effectiveness of Treatment in the Ghanaian Health Sector

Version: 4 Date: 10 June 2014

Reviewer: Beth Rachlis

Reviewer's report:

In general, this paper seems very under referenced given the research that has been done on malaria treatment in resource-limited settings.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. How many patients were removed given missing values...this should be reported.

2. It is still not clear on the data sources for where patient variables are coming from. This needs to be stated explicitly. Is the data on patients coming from hospital records? Medical records?

-the authors response that “the exclusion of income was due to an error in the preparation of the questionnaire”...is not clear. Please revise.

3. 2nd paragraph in results describing where variables came from should be moved to the methods.

Minor Essential Revisions:
4. References for discussion on role of healthcare workers in teaching hospitals and interactions with patients and decision making.

5. Reference for last sentence of background: “contrary to the literature....”

6. Add “ethical” prior to approval from the Ghana Health Service on clearance ID....

7. Add more to the rationale for selecting 100 from larger hospitals, 60-80 from...: was this based on feasibility?

8. Reference style changes under Sample. Be consistent.


10. Again references needed for rationale on informal sector and bearing a higher opportunity cost (in general references needed for 1st paragraph of page 8)

11. What version of SPSS was used?

12. First sentence of Results is awkward. Revise to: The average age of patients was 36.6 years. More than half (59%) were women.

13. In general, first paragraph of Results can be shortened. The majority of text is
presented in Table so you can just refer to Table.
14. Only report OR’s to two decimal place (e.g., 0.58 rather than 0.576)
15. Bold statistically findings in Table 3 so it stands out to the reader.
16. Move Limitations to Discussion section

Discretionary Revisions:
17. Add a map of Ghana outlining regions under study.
18. The authors may want to separate a Results section from the Discussion section. If so, only report OR’s and findings in Results and then interpret findings broadly and in relation to other literature in the Discussion.
19. Were differences across sites/regions in patient characteristics significantly different?

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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.