Reviewer's report

Title: An unmet need in the access to oral paediatric medicines in Ghana: A descriptive study.

Version: 2 Date: 9 September 2015

Reviewer: Lucy O'Malley

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions:
1. I have made some specific comments on the attached version of your manuscript.
2. In table 1, would it be possible to add a column showing the distance in Km between the treatment centre where the prescription was written and the hospital where the prescription was dispensed?
3. In table 2, why are there '-' in the column labelled 'Prescription registered for oral paediatric use'? This isn't clear to me, I think a footnote explaining this would help.

Major compulsory revisions:
1. Presumably, the fact that the pharmacies that can dispense the necessary medicines are few and far between means that some children are unable to obtain the medicines? Moreover, how much of a strain on families is having to pay for medicines? Again, is it the case that a number of children will not be receiving their medicines because the family cannot afford or chooses not to buy them? I think these are important issues that you should directly address in the introduction section.

2. Would it have been possible to obtain all prescriptions written for children over the study period and compare these with the prescriptions obtained? It would be interesting and important to know the rate of written prescriptions dispensed as this would have a major public health implications. If this was not something that was possible for you to do, I think you need to explain about this in the limitations section of the discussion.

3. The first aim stated in the final paragraph of the introduction is clear but the second aim is not. On what basis can this study make recommendations for interventions? The study is not designed to do this and it cannot achieve this. You should remove this as an aim. You can make suggestions for future research in the discussion section which may include the investigation of specific interventions but this is all.

4. Please explain why the cut off was children aged 9 years and under. Is this an important age in terms of children being able to take adult versions of medicines?
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 have no competing interests.