Reviewer’s report

Title: Challenges faced by caregivers of virally non-suppressed children on the intensive adherence counselling program in Uganda. A qualitative study

Version: 0 Date: 07 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Anthony Ajayi

Reviewer's report:

General Comments

This study explored the challenges and modes of support that caregivers need to help children achieve adherence and viral suppression. This study important considering the poor level of adherence among children. While the manuscript is generally well written, I have some suggestion on ways of making the manuscript even better. First, authors should review studies on challenges caregivers face in supporting virally non-suppressed children and summarise the findings in the background. Perhaps, studies on challenges faced by the caregiver of children living with HIV, in general, could provide the needed background for this study. It is important that this study builds on the existing body of knowledge. This could make the background better. Line3-9 of page 5: What were the reported reasons for the poor adherence found in the study? How long was the programme and could adherence be achieve given the duration of the sessions?

Methods

What is phone consent? I don't think I have ever heard that term? Line 52 of page 5

Authors wrote that the FDG were obtained in both English and local language. However, they did not write about how the data were translated into English. Also, how did they ensure the accuracy of the translation?

Lastly, the authors stated that their findings were also compared with results from similar studies. Line 51, page 6. Which studies are they referring to? perhaps they could reference those studies.

Results

In places where authors reference Tables and Figures, their spelling began with small letters. It should be written as Table 1, Table 2, Figure 1, Figure 2.....etc

Line 1 of page 11, the first "the" should be deleted.
Overall, the analysis of findings is not focused and detailed enough. Rather than listing many themes, an attempt should be made at grouping this themes in a more concise way. It is difficult to follow the result because of many headings. Authors should use the result to tell a story that interesting to readers.

Discussion

The discussion is overall good. However, the fact that the findings are not generalisable should be stated in the study limitations.

Table 2: quote should be removed from the table. I supposed authors would have discussed this theme and subthemes in the result and reference these quotes.

**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.

Yes

**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

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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