**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Availability of Essential Medicines and Pharmaceutical Inventory Management Practice at health centers of Adama town, Ethiopia

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 07 Nov 2017

**Reviewer:** Hans V Hogerzeil

**Reviewer's report:**

General

Strengths: Good topic, national authors need to be recognized and supported, refers to existing protocols and manuals.

Comments

Very small sample (only six health facilities in one area). So the impact and relevance is mainly restricted to that area. This is not a national survey. Only when combined with similar surveys from other areas in Ethiopia, a national picture can be constructed; but this analysis is lacking.

The sample of medicines is small; much smaller than in the standard WHO/HAI price and availability survey protocol. Moreover, one medicine (ergometrine) is no longer on the WHO/EML and was rightly discontinued in the health system. This shows that the list of traced drugs was either out of date or not well constructed. In any case it is too small.

With six facilities, the use of percentages becomes rather unnecessary.

The paper presents many data in narrative form, especially on stock management procedures - I would recommend to present all data in one large Table, with one column per facility

line 165 The term "non-programme source" is not explained; it was also not part of the research question; does not come back in the discussion.

I also miss practical recommendations

Table 2: full medicine names is more reader-friendly. List of TDs should be given in the methods section.

Line 280 ; Out Of Stock of ORS: reason is not very convincing - if it is such an important medicine, it should never have been out of stock.

In view of its geographic limitations, the paper is far too long and presents far too many details. There are also many overlaps, e.g. much text in the results and discussion sections repeat information that was already presented in the methods section (e.g. lines140-146, and 157-160, 273-274 - but there are many more).
I would recommend that the paper be cut by at least 50% of the text, with focus on key facts.

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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