Reviewer’s report

Title: Anaemia and blood transfusion in African children presenting to hospital with severe febrile illness

Version: 3 Date: 3 November 2014

Reviewer: John Myburgh

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have meticulously addressed all Reviewers' comments. The manuscript has been substantially revised and I have little to add apart from the following:

The KM graphs in Figure are the key take home message of this study. As indicated previously, I am pleased that these are now presented as 4 separate graphs, but the inclusion of the individual site curves obscures the importance of these results.

While the variation between sites is important, the aggregate data are key and should be presented alone in Figure 1.

The sites graphs could be presented as supplemental material or in Table format.

The paragraph in the discussion at the top of page 15 defining the triad is somewhat redundant and detracts from the flow of the discussion. Given the volume of data in this paper, this paragraph does not substantially add value to the manuscript.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests in relation to this manuscript as previously declared.