Reviewer’s report

Title: Preparedness of Emergency Departments in NorthWest England for Managing Chemical Incidents: a structured interview survey

Version: 1 Date: 1 April 2007

Reviewer: Anthony Bleetman

Reviewer’s report:

General
A timely and well-written paper that serves to inform. It contributes to knowledge and is very helpful in clarifying the true state of preparedness of emergency hospitals to deal with contaminated casualties. It reinforces personal observation and questions the reliance on pre-hospital decontainment plans. This is entirely correct.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
There are a few missed commas and minor grammatical mistakes which can be tidied up before publication.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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 declare that I have no competing interests.