Reviewer’s report

Title: The experience of Chinese undergraduates with pulmonary tuberculosis: a qualitative study

Version: 2 Date: 26 January 2010

Reviewer: Syed Fayyaz Hussain

Reviewer’s report:

General Comments
# Language editing is recommended to improve the quality of paper.
# Overall the paper is of interest and authors are encouraged to review the comments and modify the manuscript

Introduction
# Shorten introduction to two para. Remove redundant information such as DOTS therapy as this was not the focus of this survey.
# If possible, give an indication of the number of Chinese undergraduates being treated for TB

Methods
# Sample is rather small and how students were selected is not clear
# The questionnaire had 9 questions and it is unlikely the response time for these questions would have been 50-70 minutes. What further open or close questions were used as a prompt or asked to enhance the interview.
# Were the participants medical undergraduate or from other universities
# Two out of 17 participants were not undergraduates
# It appears 7 students were treated as outpatient (this needs to be clarified) and 10 were admitted. The reason for admission and excessive prolonged duration of hospital stay is not clear- did these patients had more severe form of disease MDR TB, in which case it is expected they will have more fear and anxiety
# It not clear why patients were receiving intravenous infusion each morning as TB medications are given orally
# It is also not clear why students were not allowed to go back to classes for months as this is not required by the Chinese policy- it seems universities have their own rules. This is likely to confuse the students and increase their hardship
# Following diagnosis of TB, are the patients/students provided with written information about TB

Discussion
# Needs shortening and focussed on the aims of survey
# Needs to highlight discrepancy between recommended management and those practices described in the survey that result in increased cost and isolation of students