Reviewer's report

**Title:** Occupational exposure to blood-borne infection: survey of universal precautions knowledge and reported injuries in Kabul hospital staff

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 8 July 2009

**Reviewer:** Derek Smith

**Reviewer's report:**

This article provides some important data on the current situation of blood-borne disease exposure among selected health care workers in Afghanistan. It is concise, well-written and relevant. Some revisions to the current manuscript will be required however.

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

**Page 1**

- What is meant by “[something about adherence]”?
- The response rate should be provided in the results

**Page 3**

- The first sentence should be rewritten, and “Guoy” should be “Guo”
- “Chi-Wen Juan” should be “Juan”
- Were there any changes to the questionnaire following back-translation?
- Was participation voluntary and anonymous?

**Page 4**

- Please provide the response rates for each individual hospital
- Please provide the response rates for each worker category if possible
- “Staff cadre” should be changed to “job description” or similar

**Pages 5-6**

- The Discussion section needs to be expanded with further text and references added to help broaden the context. Regarding the epidemiological aspects of injuries see, for example:
Regarding risk factors, see:


Some more discussion regarding the important issue of underreporting needs to be added to the Discussion as well. See for example:


A limitations section need to be added to the manuscript, or at least included as part of the Discussion.

Tables

The term “NSSI” needs to be defined in a footnote
The Abstract states that risk factors will be investigated. Which table is this data on?

Minor Essential Revisions

References (pages 7-8)

The references are not currently in correct journal style. Please revise carefully.

Tables

Table 2 was incorrectly formatted on the PDF version of the article and needs to be resaved, perhaps in Landscape format
The table on page 10 seems to continue past the margins, and thus, we cannot see exactly what it contains

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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