Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 3 November 2009

Reviewer: Pedro Moro

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The article has improved but there are a few things that need to be corrected before the manuscript can be published:

1) In the results section there is a subheading for the findings regarding the knowledge of healthcare workers interviewed. However, there is no section to describe the findings regarding the practices of the healthcare workers. The text in the knowledge section mentions that ….used needles can be recapped (82.1%).. but in table 3 the percentage is 17.9%. Likewise, the text says that isolation is necessary for patients with bloodborne infections (30%) but the text indicates 70%. Table 3 is confusing. The title of the table has to make it easily understandable what is being shown: for example, it could be: Table 3. Percentage of healthcare workers who agreed with the following statements.

It is not clear what the word correct means in table 3 (the word correct to the right of each heading in the table). This should be explained or the table should be made in such a way as not to be confusing.

2) There are two sets of tables 1 and 2. The questionnaire in the annex should not be included. As mentioned above, table 3 needs to be improved.

3) Table 1 only shows needlesticks but not how many healthcare workers there were for the different characteristics. This should be shown. I suggest the authors consult several similar publications where similar data has been displayed.

4) Table 2 is showing the circumstances of needlestick injuries and should be titled accordingly.

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

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