Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of Hepatitis B virus in High School and University in Bangui, Central African Republic

Version: 1 Date: 2 February 2010

Reviewer: Maimuna Mendy

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions
1) Although DBS collection for HBsAg and HBVDNA quantification have been validated against serum, Detection of anti-HBc and anti-HBs from dried blood spot collection is a novel technique. The Data on sensitivity and specificity of DBS compared with serum should be presented. If this has been done before which I not aware of, then the publication refering to that work should be referenced in the manuscript.

2) The authors reported a much lower prevalence of anti-HBc (42% vs 89%)and anti-HBs (3.7% vs 32%) in CAR than what is reported by Pawlowski et al (ref 8). Suggestions on why there is decrepancies between two studies should be presented and discussed.

Minor essential Revisions
1) Anti-HDV was mentioned as one of the tests that were performed, but there is no mention of the ioutcome of this test. Either delete anti-HDV from the methods section or show the data in the results section if the samples were tested.

2) The title of table 3 is misleading, calculation of ODDS ratio should be obtained for the risk factors.

Discretionary Revisions
The authors stated that informed consent was sought from parents of younger participants (<18 yrs old) but there is no clarification as to whether the parents were informed of the results as should be the case. This needs clarification.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests