Reviewer’s report

Title: Potential for airborne transmission of infection in the waiting areas of healthcare premises: stochastic analysis using a Monte Carlo model

Version: 2 Date: 8 February 2010

Reviewer: Ian Eames

Reviewer’s report:

Interesting paper. I thought the conclusions were very interesting and quite thought provoking.

The paper should be published subject to minor essential revisions:

Some points need to be described in more detail:

a) The use of equation 1 and 2 seems to be quite crucial in the on-going study so its limitations need to be explained (and indeed the sensitivity to different parameters). I couldn’t see a reference to Gammaitoni-Nucci (eg include L. Gammaitoni and M.C. Nucci, "Evaluation of the efficacy of TB control measures using a mathematical model" Emerging Infectious Diseases 3 (1997))

b) The figure preparation is quite poor - they are essential enlarged bit maps, perhaps from a screen dump. The scales need to be altered so that we can see the data. In the paper, there are some references to Figure.5 Figure.6 and otherwise figures 1 - 4. The formatting is therefore incomplete.

Other than that, it’s a clearly written paper focussing on an important question.

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 in relation to this paper and the authors.