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: 4 Date: 6 July 2010

Reviewer: Chris Settle

Reviewer’s report:

No further revision recommended.

I am interested though to ask about two things (not for publication, but for my own information):

Risk of transmission of TB within healthcare facilities is considered to be significant if the exposure time to someone with detectable organisms in sputum is above 8 hours. If an exposure time of eight hours were used in the authors model - what would the probability of high risk transmission episodes or mean probability of transmission be?

Secondly, for chickenpox, significant exposure (resulting in more than a 50% chance of disease acquisition in a susceptible person) is considered to be 15 minutes of face to face contact. Assuming this duration of exposure and probability of transmission are correct - what would the likely quantum generation rate for Herpes Zoster be?

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.