Reviewer's report

Title: Systemic bacteraemia in children presenting with clinical pneumonia and the impact of non-typhoid salmonella (NTS)

Version: 2 Date: 12 August 2010

Reviewer: James Berkley

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript is much more authoritative now that the current definitions of pneumonia syndromes have been used in analysis and the laboratory methods clarified. The result, which challenges the use of single agent penicillin makes an important contribution to the field.

Two suggestions on the revised manuscript:

i) In the abstract and first part of the discussion, it would be more informative to give the proportions amongst children who had blood cultures taken rather than amongst pathogens isolated. e.g. 21/46 (45%) ought to be 21/197 (11%) etc.

ii) The conclusion in the abstract is a little weak and should be replaced by the excellent conclusion given in the main text: "Amino-penicillins, may often not be adequate for the treatment of children presenting with pneumonia symptoms in Sub-saharan Africa and NTS in children with pneumonia should be considered."

If the word count for the abstract is limiting to make this change, then I suggest editing the background paragraph: "...facilities such as x-ray or microbiological laboratories relies on clinical symptoms according to the World Health Organisation Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (WHO-IMCI)." to become "...facilities such as x-ray or microbiological laboratories relies on clinical syndromes."

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests