Reviewer's report

Title: Malaria prevention reduces in-hospital mortality among severely ill Tuberculosis patients: a three step intervention in Bissau, Guine-Bissau

Version: 2 Date: 29 October 2010

Reviewer: Stephen Graham

Reviewer's report:

Interesting study. Important findings.

1. The introduction is too long and much is repeated in discussion.
2. Data could be better presented. What are the raw numbers used for "death: discharge ratio". It is hard to guage accuracy of this ratio but as it is written, it does not seem to match with mortality data.
3. Is it possible to get a clear idea of admission policy for TB cases i.e. severity of disease?
4. The first line of abstract and introduction refers to adult disease patterns - pneumonia is a more common cause of death in children than TB, HIV or malaria.
5. Did or how did ART usage change with time? Use of ART for TB/HIV changes in practice could be one confounder.
6. Was there an effect on mortality by age? Susceptibility to severe malaria is affected by age.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.