Reviewer's report

Title: Impact of sputum gross appearance and volume on smear positivity of pulmonary tuberculosis: a prospective cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 22 May 2012

Reviewer: Mishal Khan

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Minor Essential Revisions

As the major conclusion is related to volume of sputum submitted by women (4ml) it may be worth suggesting that future work should look at whether that 4ml of sputum should be expectorated in one attempt or whether patients should be allowed to expectorate several times into the same container (ie study whether there is a difference is smear-positivity)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'