Reviewer's report

Title: Respiratory viruses from Hospitalized Children with Severe Pneumonia in the Philippines

Version: 7 Date: 14 November 2011

Reviewer: David Murdoch

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Major Compulsory Revisions

(1) The authors have still not identified in the text how they have defined which blood culture isolates are contaminants. Staphylococcus lugdunensis can be a contaminant, but is usually regarded as a pathogen until proven otherwise.

(2) The isolates identified as B. cepacia need further work. B. cepacia bacteremia does occur, but is unusual in a community setting. Automated identification systems (including the VITEK) are well-known to occasionally mis-identify B. pseudomallei as B. cepacia. These isolates need further molecular work to confirm their identity.

(3) I accept that the "died" and "discharged against medical advice-deteriorated" groups can be combined, as long as it is made very clear that this approach has been used in previous studies and that the evidence indicates strongly that these children usually died.

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.