Reviewer's report

Title: Factors associated with delayed treatment of tuberculosis in hospitalized patients: a retrospective cohort study.

Version: 1 Date: 28 November 2011

Reviewer: Ramona Finnie

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions

1) The second paragraph under Methods states PTB was diagnosed "according to the following criteria established in the Brazilian Guidelines for Tuberculosis". It looks like the diagnosis required 1 of the 5 requirements and that the list starts from the most preferred method. Is there a hierarchy in how diagnosis is made? If so, this should be stated.

2) In the discussion, you make connections between patient (help seeking) delay and treatment delay (citing studies of patient delay to confirm this study's findings for treatment delay). It is important to explicitly state that patient delay may affect diagnostic or treatment delay when making these connections. That is why the findings for patient delay are important for diagnostic/treatment delay.

3) Please check for typos in the paper.

Discretionary Revisions

1) Is the term in-hospital diagnosis more widely used vs in-patient diagnosis?

2) Inclusion criteria: what age classifies as adults in this population (15 and up or 18 and up)?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.

Ramona K.C. Finnie