Reviewer’s report

Title: Effects of introducing Xpert MTB/RIF test on multi-drug resistant Tuberculosis diagnosis in KwaZulu-Natal South Africa

Version: 1 Date: 10 June 2014

Reviewer: Prince James

Reviewer’s report:

Discretionary revisions:
1. In Abstract section - results - it becomes a little difficult to relate that confirmatory test is actually culture and DST. Methods section in Abstract should be expanded a little more.

2. In Abstract section - conclusion - Though Xpert provides results in few hours only, there was delay of 1 to 3 months in starting MDR TB treatment. I think this should be highlighted more clearly in conclusion.

3. In Main article - result section - It will be good to know actually how many samples were totally tested with Xpert over one year study period - out of which 637 were found to have Rifampicin resistance.

4. In discussion section of main article - 2nd paragraph - large number of patient did not have confirmatory test - This is an important finding - Authors can also write some suggestions to rectify this problem, like - to put the necessary follow up date in Xpert request form, so that patient can be informed to come for follow up the results by that date.

5. Main article discussion 3rd Paragraph - A large number of patient culture was done on same day sample - Its an important finding - authors can give some suggestions to rectify this problem.

6. Main article - discussion 4th paragraph - starting MDR TB treatment within 5 days - Authors can give some suggestions like - may be a good standard protocol and monthly audit will help to trace patients and problems in system.

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.