Reviewer’s report

Title: Antimicrobial resistance predicts death in Tanzanian children with bloodstream infections: a prospective cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 12 March 2007

Reviewer: Shabir A Madhi

Reviewer’s report:

General
Revison has adressed the majority of the previous comments

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. Discuss that the high prevalence of antibiotic use in the community pre- blood cultures, may have biased the isolates in favor of those pathogens which would not normally respond to antibiotics that are commonly available in the community; eg. Amoxicillin?. Consequently, the role of other commonly identified pathogens, especially Streptococcus pneumoniae may be under-recognized in such a setting.

2. Pg 17 – end of 1st paragraph. A more likely explanation for the low CFR for E. feacium, despite suboptimal antibiotic treatment, is that these isolates may in fact have been contaminants. As such, this should be included in the discussion, and the implications thereof in terms of the prevalence of bacteremia in the study population should be acknowledged.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Which journal?: Not appropriate for BMC Medicine: an article whose findings are important to those with closely related interests and more suited to BMC Infectious Diseases

What next?: Offer publication in BMC Infectious Diseases after minor essential revisions

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests