Reviewer's report

Title: Epidemiology and Outcome of Pneumocystis Pneumonia in the Recent Era of Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy: A Cohort Study

Version: 1 Date: 2 July 2008

Reviewer: Mark Metersky

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory revisions: None

Minor Compulsory revisions: Page 9, the authors say that, "Increasing albumin was associated with decreased survival". I am sure that should be "decreasing albumin"

Same page, if 51.4% had started HAART within one month, the number starting within 6 months must be equal to or greater than that. Do they mean that 11.4% started at between 1-6 months, or is one of these numbers wrong?

Table 4, the analysis of OR for mortality if HAART started in hospital and received for at least 7 days.... Of course, if the patient dies during day 1-6, they can't receive HAART for 7 days, so this analysis may be misleading. This needs clarification or perhaps deletion.

Discretionary revisions: Page 14 Underinsurance is a term that is commonly accepted while I have never seen "minimal insurance".

Page 5, line 6, might change "obtain" to "receive"

It is surprising that the HAART and non HAART patients are overall very similar in terms of their baseline clinical characteristics (for example CD4 count). The authors might wish to comment on why they think that is. Could it be because many had only recently been started on HAART? Do they think that adherence to HAART was a factor? Do they have data on adherence?

Approximately 20% of charts were "randomly lost". This is an astoundingly high loss rate. Could it have been non-random? For example older charts more frequently lost or more recent charts not available as they were incomplete or were being used elsewhere for billing or patient care?

Since starting HAART in hospital did not improve mortality, the authors may wish to comment on the risk/benefit of doing so.

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'