Reviewer's report

**Title:** Private doctors' practices, knowledge, and attitude regarding reporting of communicable diseases: A national survey in Taiwan

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 31 July 2008

**Reviewer:** Gerrit A van Essen

**Reviewer's report:**

This is a well performed questionnaire study into the willingness to report communicable diseases in Taiwan. A high response due to visits to the respondents makes the results hardly biased. The authors report their findings as frequencies.

A few comments:
- in the abstract percentages (with one decimal!) of not-reporting were given based on 66 respondents: that decimal suggests an accuracy which is not possible
- in the abstract section the percentages of a much bigger group respondents are give about knowledge: that is confusing
- in the methods the sampling is 'random', but there is no description of the sampling method (how were the 15 of 26 city chosen?)
- per city/county 50-100 practices were chosen: is it possible that there is difference between cities: should there be controle for this (multilevel analysis?)
- table 1 does nog explicit the differences between the two last columns in the column headings; here again decimal percentages of N=66 is strange
- in the tekst the line 'more than half of the non-reporters were 41-50 years old suggests significance, where the 95%CI are not given
- in table 2 again the data are given for only 66 respondents, with very many categories
- Table 4 and 5 are giving just about all the questions from the questionnaire (it seems), with only frequencies and significant differences: it seems possible to analyse the data further. Although an electronical journal does not have problems with printing space, that does not prevent authors to simplify their data in order to make it easier for their readers; why not do a multivariate analysis to find the adjusted OR that really means something?
- this leads to a far too long discussion where all the univariate findings are discussed; my suggestion th the authors is to find the real factors in this study and only comment shortly in comparison the the literature

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'