Reviewer’s report

Title: Household costs of illness during different phases of tuberculosis treatment in Central Asia: a patient survey in Tajikistan

Version: 1 Date: 28 May 2009

Reviewer: Marieke J. van der Werf

Reviewer’s report:

This manuscript is a detailed analysis of the household costs of the tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment phase. The aim of the study is clear and the methods seem to be sound.

Minor revisions

In the background section the authors make a number of statements that need a reference, e.g. first sentence of background section.

In the one but last paragraph of the background section the authors provide the incidence per 100,000. They write 100'000. I suggest them to change it in 100,000.

In the last paragraph of the background section the author state that there has been no systematic study on illness related costs of TB in any country of the former Soviet Union. I like to inform the authors about a study in Ukraine:


Methods section: Can the authors please explain how they handled patients that defaulted from treatment between the first and the second interview.

First paragraph of results section: Please add the percentage to the numbers.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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