Reviewer’s report

Title: Same-Visit HIV Testing in Trinidad and Tobago

Version: 2 Date: 8 June 2009

Reviewer: dexter voisin

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This largely descriptive study details the efforts of the Ministry of Health (MOH) to implement same-visit HIV testing in Trinidad and Tobago. Given the high prevalence of HIV in this country the MOH should be highly commended for their effort to curtail the transmission of HIV by improving voluntary HIV testing and counseling. In addition, this study focuses on a country that is very much under represented in the scientific literature. There are several suggestions which the authors may find useful for improving the focus and clarity of the study and presentation of the findings.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Please consult the AMA Manual of Style, 10th Edition for the conventional presentation of study findings. The Abstract should contain separate sections for Aims, Methods, Results and Conclusion sections. The main text must follow standard AMA research format with an Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion sections. Much of the suggested revisions to this manuscript require reorganization of the existing information.

2. Introduction—please provide a brief summary of the prevalence of HIV infection in Trinidad and Tobago (T&T). Are there specific gender trends related to HIV infection? Next follow with “HIV Testing in Trinidad and Tobago” then “Policy for Testing.” I would delete the section on “Technology for HIV Testing.”

3. It appears that the 8 questions currently listed under “policy development” were the primary questions which this study collaboration sought to address. Therefore, I will describe in the following Methods section: who were the stakeholders that sought to address these questions? How they were selected? and How the data obtained from this collaboration was analyzed?

4. Please describe the results from the study. Organize them under the 8 questions which were posed in the Introduction section. Currently, you have this section listed as “Outcomes.”

5. Please provide a discussion of your findings based on the new organization and presentation of your study findings. What are some of the cultural, economic and social challenges associated with HIV testing in T&T? Are there issues related to sustainability of such a program? How are issues of stigma being addressed or stigma reduction related to getting tested or having a HIV+ diagnosis? Are there issues related to confidentiality? What about access and
education issues?

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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