Reviewer’s report

Title: "Cough officer screening" improves detection of nosocomial pulmonary tuberculosis

Version: 2 Date: 30 November 2009

Reviewer: Daniel Datiko

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Title: Effect of “cough officer screening” on detection of pulmonary tuberculosis among hospital inpatients
Reviewer: Daniel G. Datiko

General comments
The paper addresses important aspect of tuberculosis case finding in health institutions. This could help to reduce delay due to the health service including the health workers to improve early case finding. It also reduces nosocomial transmission. The authors describe important topic in tuberculosis control and the article is now well done. However I have few comments.

Minor essential revisions
1. Page 2, abstract conclusion should be written as the COS system has reduced the delay in TB detection.
2. Page 3, in the background omit …high quality…
3. Page 14, line one the sentence...This suggests that improvements could be made in cost-effectiveness, a topic which will be addressed in a forthcoming study…could be replaced with ‘However, the cost effectiveness of the COS system requires further study.
4. Page 3, paragraph 1, line 7, omit the word ‘alone’.
5. Page 3, paragraph 2, the first sentence….write the limitation of PCF and include why active case finding may be required not only by some clinicians but some countries may need to do that for some reasons. Please re-write the sentence. Omit the phrase ‘in addition to DOTS’.
6. Page 9, in the last sentence… However, a Wilcoxon rank-sum test indicated that the median time from alarm to action was significantly less during Stage I than during Stage II, omit …’ a Wilcoxon rank-sum test indicated that ….and add p-value.
7. Page 10, last sentence of the results delete ... (table 3).
8. Page 10, the first sentence delete ...the rate of TB detection.
9. Page 13, paragraph 3, delete the phrase ‘…and outbreak of TB’.
10. Page 14, second sentence... This suggests that improvements could be made in cost-effectiveness, a topic which will be addressed in a forthcoming
study. …should replaced with ….This requires cost effectiveness analysis of the COS system.

11. Page 14, paragraph 3, the sentence…’ Each year, about 8 million people develop TB and about 2 million die from TB worldwide. Implementation of an effective COS program may contribute to a significant reduction in the TB incidence and death rate, particularly in Africa and Eastern Europe, where the challenges appear to be greatest ‘ should be cautiously written it is more than what the study could offer. Better removed or re-written.

12. In the recommendation could you make it more applicable considering the limitations of your study.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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