Reviewer's report

Title: Public Perceptions and Attitudes towards Thalassaemia: Influencing factors in a Multi-racial Population

Version: 1 Date: 20 July 2010

Reviewer: Manju Mamtani

Reviewer's report:

Summary: This is an interesting paper in which the authors have reported knowledge, attitude and practices towards Thalassaemia in the multi-racial Malaysian population.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Table 1 – The OR column is both unnecessary and confusing. In a descriptive epidemiological study the authors are better advised not to indulge in statistical testing of hypotheses not defined a priori.

Minor Essential Revisions
2. Page 8 – line 2: ‘The mean and median age of the study participants was 35.0’. Is this the mean age or the median age?
4. Table 1 – I think there is a typo in the percentage of Ever married category: 2510 (32.6). It should be 2510 (67.4).
5. Table 2 – Under the socio-demographic variable – employment – Please replace ‘In employment’ with ‘employed’ and ‘Not in employment’ with ‘unemployed’.

Discretionary Revisions
6. Please improve the overall usage of English language and refrain from over-generalization of the results. In that regard, the authors may be benefitted by a professional editing of the manuscript.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.