Reviewer’s report

Title: Setting up a surveillance system for sexually transmitted diseases in the general population with prospective data collection from private and public doctors in Hong Kong

Version: 1 Date: 14 September 2010

Reviewer: Cui Yang

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions

General comments: This is a very important and novel topic that could potentially have major policy implications for establishing a surveillance system of STD/RTI in Hong Kong. Several minor revisions would strengthen this manuscript.

1. In the Materials and Methods section, rational of choosing the dates of June 4 through June 18 2007 (15days) should be provided. The potential bias of choosing these days should be discussed in the limitation as well.

2. It is surprising that ALL public doctors working in the 8 SHC participated in the study, given the much lower response rates among private doctors. It is unclear what motivated all public doctors to participate, especially no information regarding the incentive to the public doctors is provided.

3. In addition to the geographic location and gender, I would see how different participating private doctors were different from non-participating private doctors in terms of other aspects, such as size of the clinic, which are more relevant to the representativeness of the sample.

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.