Reviewer’s report

Title: Rapid Assessment of Hib Disease Burden in Vietnam

Version: 1 Date: 13 February 2011

Reviewer: Dimitar Nashev

Reviewer’s report:

This paper represents a useful demonstration of the use of Hib rapid assessment tool in resource-limited settings and shows consistency of incidence rates derived from RAT and population- and hospital-based studies. The objectives are well defined, data are sound and authors clearly state the limitations of the study.

Minor Essential Revisions

Page 7: Results: “Suspected, purulent, and confirmed bacterial and Hib meningitis” This section unnecessarily duplicates the content of Table 2.

Page 8: “Total estimated cases of Hib meningitis and Hib pneumonia” Actually, total estimated cases of Hib meningitis and Hib pneumonia are not shown in this section, but in the abstract. Furthermore, the main finding in the study – the estimated annual Hib meningitis incidence (18/100, 000) is also not shown in the results and should be included.

Page 8: The syndromic surveillance data and figures 1 and 2 seem out of the context. The authors’ idea about these data or the possible connection with the Hib disease burden should be clarified in the discussion or this part should be removed.

Page 10: Discussion section is mistakenly named as Conclusion.

Page 10: As shown in the cited study by Anh et al. (Reference 18), it is carried out between March 2000 and February 2002, and not from 1999 to 2001. If additional data are available, this should be clearly stated.

Page 12: There is a mistake in the citation of the study in Khanh Hoa province (Reference 17). The reported incidence of Hib invasive disease in this article is 22.9 / 100 000 (48.7 / 100 000 is the incidence of invasive pneumococcal disease).

Discretionary Revisions

Abstract: It would be helpful to include the study period in the abstract (January 2004- December 2005).

Page 10: “With the anticipated introduction of Hib vaccines in July 2009…” – Some discussion on the actual status of Hib vaccination in Vietnam may be of interest to the readers.
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