Reviewer's report

Title: Limiting worker exposure to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A (H5N1): a repeat survey at a rendering plant processing infected poultry carcasses in the UK.

Version: 1 Date: 5 April 2011

Reviewer: Giri Rajaratnam

Reviewer's report:

This paper describes a pragmatic approach to targetting of pre-exposure prophylaxis amongst workers at a rendering plant. The paper is aimed at practising health protection professionals. It suggests an approach that is based on common sense and an understanding of the limitations of understanding of the infectivity of H5N1. The approach does enable managers of rendering plants and the HPA to give some sensible advice to this group of workers.

The aim, methods are appropriate.

In terms of the data - it is important to know why those workers in categories C and D, were provided with an intervention and whether the intervention included both PPE and medication? This is important to enable readers to think about how to individualise risks to those workers whose overall risk is low or negligible.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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 in the way described above. However, it is important for you to note that I was involved in incident 1 described in the report. I was the on call public health consultant for Stoke on Trent during incident 1.