Reviewer's report

Title: Detection of events of public health importance under the International Health Regulations: A toolkit to improve reporting of unusual events by frontline healthcare workers

Version: 1 Date: 10 June 2011

Reviewer: Markku Kuusi

Reviewer's report:

This is a very well written and clear manuscript about an important topic. The study question is well defined and the project has achieved real outputs.

I have no suggestions for major revisions of the paper. I have two minor comments (discretionary revisions):

1) Event reporting may not be a familiar concept for public health professionals, and even less so for clinicians or laboratories. In the introduction the definition of event is rather broad. I was wondering whether the definition could be more concrete already in the introduction. However, it is true that in the description of the toolkit on page 12, events are defined in a more detailed way.

2) On page 10 some potential reporters from other sectors are mentioned. In this context, veterinarians could be mentioned, since they may be the first professionals to detect zoonotic events, in which there may be a risk to human infections/outbreaks.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.