Reviewer's report

Title: Community health workers improve contact tracing among immigrants with tuberculosis in Barcelona

Version: 3 Date: 16 December 2011

Reviewer: Graham H Bothamley

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All minor revisions
Is the writing acceptable?
Abstract – replace“ Hospital B”, by “one of two hospitals without a hospital-based contact tracing team”
Replace “homelessness” with “homeless”
P4. After “South Eastern Asia” place in brackets” (which includes India but not Pakistan)”

Correct punctuation
P4 “,” after “year”, not “;” and no comma before “and”
P5. “a” becomes “an” before a vowel.

Correct English,
P4. “however is a sentence adverb and should be preceded by a period and have a comma after it.
P8. “birthplace in..” not “birthplace as”
P8. “Pulmonary TB presentation was most frequent” should be “Pulmonary TB was the most frequent presentation”
P9 replace “do not had” with “did not have”. “had not known” with “no known”
“But with some cases (homelessness or had not known residence) CHW contacted by phone or directly in public dining rooms” should be “CHW contacted some cases, such as the homeless and those with no known residence, by phone or in person.
P9. “In all forms of TB cases also were associated with lack of contact tracing: male, incarceration history, extrapulmonary TB and a normal CXR” should be “A lack of contact tracing for all forms of TB was associated with male sex, history of imprisonment, extrapulmonary TB and a normal CXR”.
P10. “Mass immigration observed in some countries like Spain has significantly affected the epidemiology of TB. This phenomenon has led to the development of a consensus document on imported TB to improve TB control for every immigrant, even to those who had no righ of residence. It recommends an easy
process to achieve a health card, an initial medical exam at the first appointment in the healthcare system, and to include CHW in TB programs” should become “Mass migration has affected the epidemiology of TB. In Spain, a consensus document has been developed to address this problem, even in those with no right of residence. This policy recommends that all migrants have a health card, an initial medical examination at their first appointment and to include CHW in TB control programmes.”

P10. “provides the development of” should be “develops”

P11. “We believe that these differences didn’t affect the results because the increase in the immigrant population may have worsened the contact tracing, however, the percentage of contacts done improved after the introduction of the CHW intervention. Another limitation of the study that 8% of cases” should become “The increase in immigrants would most likely have worsened contact tracing and therefore our figures may have underestimated the benefit of the CHW intervention. Eight percent of cases…”

Define ACS at first use.

Please label the axes of the figures.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

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

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.