Reviewer's report

Title: Breastfeeding practices in urban and rural Vietnam

Version: 1 Date: 26 January 2012

Reviewer: Colin BInns

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This is an important topic and the results could be very useful in planning child health services.

The first thing that one notices is the unusual order of the manuscript with the methodology at the end of the paper. This needs to be in the correct position.

Ethics and consent are OK

- Major Compulsory Revisions

There are however a number of important issues that need to be addressed if the paper is to reach publication standard.

Questionaries - Provide detail of where they came from or how they were developed and validated

Data analysis - inadequate details are given. eg type of survival analysis used

For a longitudinal study of this nature multivariate analysis is required. At present only univariate results are given. The variables that are used in the multivariate modelling should include the standard ones such as maternal age, residence, parity, employment, type of delivery and the use of prelacteal feeds.

Exclusive breastfeeding - how strictly was this interpreted. It is traditional in this part of Vietnam for relatives to bring gifts after the birth. The most common gift given is a can of infant formula. Were the mothers questioned about receiving gifts of formula and did this change the classification of exclusive breastfeeding.

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'