Author's response to reviews

Title: Antibiotic use and resistance in emerging economies: a situation analysis for Viet Nam

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Re: Manuscript re-submission, “Antibiotic use and resistance in emerging economies: a situation analysis for Vietnam”

Dear Natalie Pafitis and BMC Public Health editorial team,

Thank you for your email and comments. We believe we have addressed the concerns raised and would like to request your consideration to review our paper for publication in BMC Public Health.

1. Authors’ contributions
We have included this section in the manuscript, after the ‘Competing interests’ section as requested.

2. PRISMA guidelines
Whilst our manuscript incorporates a systematic review of the literature, it is not a ‘systematic review’ per se. As detailed in the manuscript, all relevant literature was systematically reviewed from 1-1-1990 to 31-8-2012 and we can confirm that the review process conformed to PRISMA guidelines.

However the information gained from this review was subsequently analysed at a policy workshop attended by all stakeholders and feasible policy recommendations to strengthen antimicrobial stewardship in Viet Nam were made. The results of this analysis and subsequent action by the Vietnamese Ministry of Health are also reported in our manuscript. Hence we believe that the most accurate description of our work is a ‘situation analysis’ and this is reflected in the title of the manuscript.

In order to tackle antimicrobial resistance it is increasingly urgent for emerging economies to determine the patterns of antibiotic use and resistance in their respective countries. This is reflected in the recent ‘Chennai Declaration’ made by India in November 2012.[1, 2] We believe that our situation analysis is an important step in this process for Viet Nam and that it may provide other countries facing a similar predicament with an example of how to begin to tackle the escalating and serious problem of antimicrobial resistance.

Thank you for considering our manuscript and we look forward to your response.
Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Arjun Chandna
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References
