Author's response to reviews

Title: Human influenza A H5N1 in Indonesia health care service-associated delays in treatment initiation

Authors:

Wiku Adisasmito (wiku.adisasmito@ui.ac.id)
Dewi Nur Aisyah (dewi.aisyah.ui@gmail.com)
Tjandra Yoga Aditama (doctjand@yahoo.com)
Rita Kusriastuti (ritakus@yahoo.com)
Trihono N/A (trihono1954@yahoo.com)
Agus Suwandono (suwandono49@gmail.com)
Ondri Dwi Sampurno (ondri@litbang.depkes.go.id)
Prasenohadi N/A (praseno@gmail.com)
Nurshanty A Sapada (sapada_rspiss@yahoo.com)
MJN Mamahit (makentur@yahoo.com)
Anna Swenson (aswenson@outcome.com)
Nancy A Dreyer (ndreyer@outcome.com)
Richard Coker (richard.coker@lshtm.ac.uk)

Version: 3 Date: 2 April 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr Daniel Barnett,

Thank you and the reviewer for the last comments on our manuscript entitled “Human influenza A H5N1 in Indonesia health care service-associated delays in treatment initiation”.

We have revised the manuscript accordingly. Please see the attached revised manuscript and response to reviewer’s comments. We hope the manuscript is now acceptable for publication in BMC Public Health.

Yours faithfully,

Prof. Wiku Adisasmito
(Corresponding author)
### Background

| Comments | I suggest to re-check the following phrase, as the punctuation does not seem to be correct; moreover a full-stop is missing in the manuscript, at the end of the phrase.

"We recently reported the impact of treatment on the clinical course of influenza H5N1 and showed that though treatment with oseltamivir within 48 hours offers significant benefits in terms of survival, the benefits of treatment persist in terms of reduced case fatality rates, though to a lesser extent, even if treatment is delayed up to 6 to 8 days after symptom onset"

| Revision | Adjusted as attached |

### Methods

| Comment 1 | "Data on human avian influenza (H5N1) cases were collected between September 2005 – December 2010.”

I would suggest to change “between September 2005 – December 2010” either with “between September 2005 and December 2010”, or “from September 2005 to December 2010”

| Revision | Adjusted as attached |

| Comment 2 | "Also, some cases were identified from a publication, and were also included in the registry”.

I would suggest to change the phrase with “The characteristics of some cases were acquired/obtained from literature, and added to the registry”. Moreover, if possible I would suggest to add how many cases were retrieved in this way.

| Revision | Adjusted as attached |

| Comment 3 | "The case definition used included the World Health Organization case (WHO) definition and, in addition, laboratory confirmation from both Indonesia and WHO laboratories.”

This part is a bit unclear. I would suggest to simplify it. An option could be “Cases were defined accordingly to the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines, and/or through laboratory confirmation from both Indonesia and WHO laboratories.”

| Revision | Adjusted as attached |

| Comment 4 | "In this analysis we determined the following
As you are not describing the analysis you performed, I suggest to modify this part to something similar to "For each case the following timelines were determined:"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revision</th>
<th>Adjusted as attached</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Results**

| Comment | "...and 43 cases who given antiviral treatment."  
Add "were" to "who given". Even better, this could be change to "who received". |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revision</td>
<td>Adjusted as attached</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>