Reviewer’s report

Title: X-ray screening at entry and systematic screening for tuberculosis control in a highly endemic prison

Version: 1 Date: 14 May 2013

Reviewer: Valeria Saraceni

Reviewer’s report:

1 – Page 3, 1st paragraph: the authors could explain more what they refer to as “passive case finding”. Although a TB-used reader would understand it, a reader less familiarized with TB may not have it completely clear on his mind.

2 – Page 4, 1st paragraph: “2) X-ray screening of inmates entering the prison within one week after admission during the study period”. Please, clarify that those cases may be transferred into this facility, which will further explain the prison’s length of stay > 24 months (duration of the study follow-up).

3 – Page 4, 2nd paragraph: “Diagnostic criteria for TB cases were as follow: 1 - Bacteriologically positive cases: subjects with two AFB-positive sputum sample by direct microscopic examination, or positive culture for M.tuberculosis.” Please, explain what was done to only 1 positive AFB sample.

4 – Page 5, 2nd paragraph – results’ section: “substantial illiteracy rates and lived mostly in poor sections of RJ city and suburb.” Please, clarify what you mean by suburb. Wouldn’t it be the metropolitan area instead?

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.