Reviewer’s report

Title: Knowledge of HIV and factors associated with attitudes towards HIV among final-year medical students at Hanoi Medical University in Vietnam

Version: 2 Date: 18 February 2014

Reviewer: Damir Bikmukhametov

Reviewer’s report:

Let me once again express my appreciation of the work that was done by the authors of the manuscript. I believe that the issues, addressed in the study, are of high importance to the public health system of the country.

I also value the efforts, which authors made to improve the manuscript, but unfortunately, with deep regrets, I have to conclude that in my opinion at this moment the manuscript does not fully qualify for publication in BMC Public Health Journal.

In my first review I have suggested that authors change the focus of the paper from describing levels of knowledge of HIV medicine to more in-depth analysis of the stigma determinants. In my opinion, this would make results of the study more generalizable and more relevant to the journal’s readership. The revised manuscript, in contrary, has shortened analytical chapter and expanded descriptional part. This, I believe, changes the essence of the publication into public health research reporting, with restricted potential for generalizability.

At the same time I sincerely hope that authors will re-analyze the data and prepare a new manuscript with more focus on HIV-related stigma determinants.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare no competing interests