Reviewer's report

Title: Tuberculosis among health care workers in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa: a retrospective cohort analysis

Version: 2
Date: 19 March 2014

Reviewer: Sheela Shenoi

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Methods – The authors state that all 3 district hospitals in KZN with MDR TB wards were selected but then state that the hospitals were selected after discussion with DoH – does this mean that there were other hospitals that could have been included or that the DoH approved of evaluating all the eligible hospitals? If there were other hospitals that could have been included and weren't, would this affect the generalizability of the study findings?

2. Methods - Please clarify the abstraction from the medical records. Was age and HIV status recorded from the time of medical record review or from the date of the TB episode?

3. Discussion 2nd paragraph – “an infection control assessment was performed in each ward of each hospital” Are the authors suggesting that non-pediatric wards did practice infection control appropriately and that peds wards were differentially neglected?

Minor Essential Revisions
4. Abstract conclusion – HCWs working throughout “the hospital facility”?
5. Among the 24 (21%) that were HIV positive, was there documentation of ART administration?

Discretionary Revisions
Results – Incidence rates – Figure should be Figure 1?

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.