Reviewer's report

Title: Health seeking and access to care for children with suspected dengue fever in Cambodia

Version: 1 Date: 7 May 2007

Reviewer: Shenglan Tang

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript is addressing an important health policy issue, that is, access of Dengue Fever patients to health care. It tried to look at their pathway to health services and key socio-economic factors affecting access to care. Overall speaking, the manuscript presents some interesting findings and is able to discuss relevant issues related to equity in financing and use of health care for these Dengue Fever patients. However, it was not well organised and written in a way that reach international standards. The following are several key specific comments for authors' consideration.

1. In the section of background, the literature review needs to be strengthened. For example, there are many very good international publications looking at pathway to health care for TB and malaria patients in many developing countries. It is important to review some of key international literature in this field.

2. In the section of methods, the authors need to outline the overall design of the study.

3. In section of results, the first few sentences should really be put into the background. In this section, the authors tried to look at the issues of equity in access to health care from users and providers' perspectives. However, the presentation of the results are sometimes confusing. For example, in the sub-section of government health facilities, there are lots of findings reported by service users, not really from the government health facilities. The sub-section of beyond the village may be better integrated into other sub-sections.

4. The discussion section is very weak. Surprisingly, this section did not use any national and international literature for any discussion.

5. Many conclusions are not really conclusions, just repeating the findings which have been already reported.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests related to this possible publication.