Reviewer's report

Title: Tuberculosis screening and follow-up of asylum seekers in Norway. A cohort study.

Version: 4 Date: 27 March 2009

Reviewer: Alberto Matteelli

Reviewer's report:

The authors made a substantial revision work and the manuscript is significantly more clear in this new version.

There are still few minor points to be addressed in the newly written part:

Background, recommended screening and management of TB: the sentence on HIV testing is cryptic. Please specify if HIV test is compulsory for asylum seekers in Norway.

Methods: some of the sentences are misplaced between methods and results. The part on the study population to be presented in the methods should not contain numbers (which are presented in the result section). Information on gender, age and origin should also be moved to the results. The last paragraph should state that 2293 subjects were eligible for this analysis, of whom 2237 were followed up and 56 excluded. This sentence should also be moved into the result section.

Study endpoints: second paragraph. The difference between 673 persons seen at PHC stated at the beginning of the paragraph and the 758 stated at the end of the paragraph is still unclear.

Discussion: second and third paragraph mentioning persons with information and health authorities which responded to the questionnaire are not part of the discussion and should be removed. This could help shortening the discussion and focusing the message

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