Reviewer's report

Title: A structured framework for improving outbreak investigation audits.

Version: 1 Date: 18 September 2009

Reviewer: Ben Cowling

Reviewer's report:

This article proposes a structured framework for outbreak investigation audits. I think the proposed framework would be very valuable for front line public health workers and organizations and I only have a few minor comments.

Discretionary revisions:

1. Selection of outbreaks to be audited. Why was 6 months suggested as the time limit, rather than say a shorter time limit? Do any other guidelines also recommend 6 months (give references)?

2. Who should participate in outbreak audits? All frontline staff, just the team leaders, supervisors etc? I am sure it would depend on circumstances and there is not going to be a single answer, but perhaps some comment could be given on the types of participants that should be involved and the number of participants (is it more difficult with a larger group of people?).

3. There is an "error bookmark not defined" message in Table 2, first outbreak listed.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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