Reviewer’s report

Title: Contribution of two revelation systems of in house PCR (colorimetric and non colorimetric) in the diagnosis of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Brazilian patients with and without HIV infection

Version: 1 Date: 31 July 2010

Reviewer: Moses Joloba

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1) The title should be improved for clarity, such as “Diagnosis of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Brazilian patients with and without HIV: Evaluation of Colorimetric and non-Colorimetric detection for IS6110 Amplicons following In-House PCR”.
2) The way I understood the manuscript, the authors evaluated two methods (PCR-AG and PCR-dot blot) for detection of amplicons following in-house PCR; so amplification was similar for both PCRs –PCR-dot blot and PCR-AG. If so, then this should be clarified that you are addressing detection of amplicons following in house PCR.

Minor Essential Revision:
Generally the manuscript is comprehensible; however, there are several grammatical errors that occur throughout the text, such as missing full stops, spaces between words, etc. The occurrence of these should be be reduced by authors to the bare minimum.

Discretionary Revisions:
The subtopics in results may be rephrased for clarity as below:
Lines 221-222: “Performance of AFB smear, culture and two in house PCR methods in comparison to the history of anti-TB treatment”
Lines 236-237: “Performance of AFB smear, culture and two in house PCR methods in comparison to HIV status”

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests