Reviewer's report

Title: Patient's site of first access to health system influences length of delay for tuberculosis treatment in Tajikistan

Version: 2 Date: 14 October 2009

Reviewer: Jianming Wang

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The readers would like to know the basic information of TB care system in Tajikistan. What is the local policy for TB referral? Which level of the health facilities is eligible for TB diagnosis and treatment? Is it free for TB diagnosis and treatment? The author can give brief introduction at the part of BACKGROUND.

2. Table 5, table 7 and table 8. Please indicate the reference group for each variable. For example, the author only list the HR(95% CI) and P value for sex. We can’t know whether it is used to describe the risk for male or female. For other variables, such as labour migration, belief curability and self-treatment, we met the same problem.

3. Usually it is better to first present the results from univariate analysis, followed by the results from multivariate analysis.

Minor essential revisions

4. Please keep the same the numbers of decimal for the same variables in one table.

5. Please notice about the expression of HR from COX model. In the main body of the manuscript, it was described as hazard ratio. In table 5 -8, it was described as hazard rate ratio.

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

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.