Reviewer's report

Title: Childhood tuberculosis desk guide and monitoring: An intervention to improve case management in Pakistan

Version: 1 Date: 25 June 2011

Reviewer: Karam Shah

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions

Under results section in 'case notification', it should be Table 2 rather than table 1. Similarly under 'characteristics of TB in children' it should be Table 1 instead of Table 2. Also in Table 2, control district A, column: *(2007) and row: childhood TB cases, there is a slight mistake in formatting, the 6 of 106 has moved down.

Under discussion section line 15, 'minimal additional resource allocation' can be used instead of 'minimal addition resource allocation'.

Discretionary Revisions

A pilot childhood TB care conducted in ten districts of Pakistan in each of the four provinces, is mentioned in the 'study sites and settings' of the manuscript. It would be good to include a brief description of the pilot in the 'introduction' of the manuscript, like the time-period of implementation and package provided for childhood care etc.

Study design should include the type of study that is planned (e.g. a prospective cohort). It should be included here that there will be one intervention district and two control districts. Also a brief explanation would be required about the reasoning for choosing two control districts instead of one against one intervention district. Was there any added benefit of the control district B included in the study?

A little re-phrasing is required in the 'data collection/data analysis' part of the manuscript. It would be a good idea to describe the pre-intervention and post-intervention comparisons in a separate paragraph from the control vs. intervention comparisons. Although it is very well presented but the reader has to go back and forth for reference.

A little bit on the differences in results seen in both control districts A & B might be good to add in the discussion section. Also it would be good to add a commentary on the reasons why differences were observed between the two control districts although the selection criteria of the districts on baseline demographic and geographic factors was well matched.

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.