Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Patterns of HIV Portuguese hospitalizations: a hierarchical survival model

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 28 May 2009

**Reviewer:** Ole Søgaard

**Reviewer’s report:**

The authors have made a thorough revision of the manuscript which now appears much improved. They have responded adequately to the comments and I recommend that the manuscript that is accepted.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

1. Abstract, result section: "On the other hand tuberculosis was identified as a protective effect." I would suggest that the sentence refrained to "On the other hand tuberculosis was associated with a reduced risk of death."

**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