Reviewer’s report

Title: Protocol for a systematic review and meta-analysis of hepatitis C virus (HCV) prevalence and incidence in the Horn of Africa sub-region of the Middle East and North Africa

Version: Date: 17 November 2014

Reviewer: Porjai Pattanittum

Reviewer’s report:

1. Will the study design adequately test the hypothesis?
   Yes.

2. Are sufficient details provided to allow replication of the work or comparison with related analyses: if not what is missing?
   Yes.

   Line 100-101, could you please specify who will responsible for title and abstract screening of the records, and who will assess the full-text? Do you have any process of checking to insure the quality of screening and assessing for eligibility?

   Line 106, Please specify who (in parentheses) will check all extracted data.

3. Is the planned statistical analysis appropriate?
   Yes.

   Line 172, normally it is suggested that P-value < 0.10 indicates significant heterogeneity (as Cochran’s Q test has low power to detect heterogeneity). Do you have any reason for using a significance level of 0.05? (if yes, please mention in the protocol, if no please use 10% significance level).

4. Do the figures appear to be genuine i.e. without evidence of manipulation?
   Yes.

5. Is the writing acceptable?
   Yes.

   Line 67-68: previous information shows that there are 4 countries of interest; Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. Should “Yemen” be added to line 68?

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