Reviewers report

Title: Antibiotic sales in rural and urban pharmacies in northern Vietnam: an observational study

Version: 1 Date: 16 July 2013

Reviewer: Madeeha Malik

Reviewers report:

The authors have worked hard to present a good innovative work but few points must be clarified in order to make the article more appealing and sound.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. How sample size for pharmacies calculated? on what basis, formula?
2. Who trained the investigators and how?
3. How questionnaires were designed and validated?
4. Why the word anonymous has been used for data collection tool?
5. What was the need for the second questionnaire?
6. Why limited respondents chosen for the filling of the second questionnaire not all?
7. How biasness was controlled?
8. How interview guide was developed and validated?
9. What about pilot testing and cronbach alpha?
10. Data was collected for generalized antibiotics but mark up was calculated for 20 antibiotics, how this will be justified in terms of price and sale pattern?
11. How compliance to regulation was assessed?
12. How interviews were transcribed?
13. Who did the thematic analysis and how?
14. Themes should be more comprehensive and quoting styles should be improved?
15. Why two methods were used simultaneously i.e questionnaire and then interviews?
16. What about sample size and technique for interviews? Saturation point?
17. Focus group discussion has been mentioned in limitation but it has not been mentioned in the text for what purpose it was used?
18. Table 1: what do you mean by complying and not complying with prescription?
19. Why not Mann Whitney was not used when two different groups have been compared?
20. using Wilcoxon test is wrong.
21. Statistical results have not been displayed properly?

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

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