Reviewer’s report

Title: The Pathogens and Epidemiology of Community-Acquired Pneumonia among Children in Nanjing, China

Version: 2 Date: 14 November 2014

Reviewer: Paramita Sengupta

Reviewer’s report:

A table on the socio-demographic profile of the study children, depicting the age-groups, place of schooling/no schooling (staying at home/in daycare/in formal school) type of house (overcrowding/no overcrowding), socio-economic condition, number of siblings, etc may be added for more clarity as the title has the word 'epidemiology' in it but descriptive data is not there, and also because there are associations with age, crowded places etc in the 'conclusion' section, which is not supported.

Major Compulsory Revision: 1. How does the study sample drawn from a single hospital in Nanjing representative of the whole city of Nanjing? Does all the CAP cases in Nanjing seek hospital treatment? If yes, do they come to Zhongda hospital for treatment? If not, the word 'Epidemiology' may be removed from the title.

2. Please mention the study design in the title/methods section

Minor essential revisions: 1. The background does not clearly state the objectives of the study in the manuscript.

2. The research question is not defined.

3. References which are outdated can be removed/replaced with newer ones (eg ref-18)

4. Line no. 270-71 in page 13 about 'crowded places may be the major reason for the spread.......' is not conclusive or supported in the manuscript.

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