Reviewer's report

Title: High prevalence of hepatitis B and poor knowledge on hepatitis B and C viral infections among barbers: a cross-sectional study of the Obuasi municipality, Ghana

Version: 2 Date: 4 September 2015

Reviewer: Caroline Hird

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Clarity regarding regression analysis undertaken and if this was appropriate. Page 5 line 1 refers to multinomial logistic regression; page 7 line 17 refers to multivariate logistic regression. Table 4 presenting regression analysis is confusing with missing p-values and incomplete confidence intervals. Use of the 2 divorced barbers as a reference group for marital status seems strange.
2. Given there was only one participant positive for HCV, tables 3, 4 and 6 which compare factors for this one participant to the rest of the study subjects and report p-values are of little value.
3. Population prevalence of HBV and HCV infection needs further mention, currently only mentioned in relation to HCV in Egypt on page 7 line 12. Not currently clear whether the prevalence of HBV in barbers is higher than rest of population. If population prevalence is not known this should be stated.

Minor Essential Revisions
4. Page 1 Line 21: the first line of the conclusion in abstract is not the same as conclusion in main text. Main text conclusion is more appropriate. The study has not demonstrated that there is an occupational link between shaving and HBV/HCV. High levels of infection of HBV and low knowledge has been found.
5. Page 3 line 2: remove ‘s’ from end of ‘wells’
6. Page 3 lines 4-6: states that shaving is an underestimated route of blood-borne viral disease transmission. High rates of infection amongst barbers does not provide good evidence that shaving is the route by which they became infected.
7. Page 4 line 4: not clear what (180) is referring to as there were 200 participants reported in results.
8. Page 4 line 4: method of recruitment not clearly described ‘conveniently recruited’
9. Page 5 line 23-24: remove sentence ‘Working experience was associated with HCV status among the participants.’
10. Page 15 Table 4: use of divorced as referent group when there were only 2 divorced individuals neither of whom had HBV infection is not helpful
Discretionary Revisions
11. Page 5 line 2: suggest that this should read ‘likelihood of HBV and HCV infections’
12. Page 5 line 4: begin second sentence ‘The majority of the participants…’
13. Page 5 line 9: suggest should read ‘number had had unprotected sex’
14. Page 5 line 14: all of the participants with HBV denied having received a blood transfusion
15. Page 5 line 23: suggest should read ‘undergone a dental procedure, but had had unprotected sex previously.’
16. Page 6 line 17: suggest re-wording to ‘Poor infection control during the use of sharp instruments may be a risk for blood-borne infections, potentially causing serious health problems for both the barber and the clients.’

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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 I have no competing interests