Author's response to reviews

Title: The burden of pertussis in low and middle-income countries since the inception of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in 1974: a systematic review protocol

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Version: 2 Date: 10 February 2015

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To the Editor

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our manuscript, titled “The burden of pertussis in low and middle-income countries since the inception of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in 1974: a systematic review protocol” to the Systematic Reviews journal.

With the resurgence of pertussis in high-income countries, the burden of pertussis has become a subject of major interest to both clinicians and public health practitioners globally. The lack of quality pertussis surveillance data has however made the work of formulating guidelines for the control of this disease difficult in low and middle-income countries (LMICs).

We believe that the findings of our systematic review will have the potential to assist policy makers in LMICs as well as advisory bodies such as SAGE by giving them a solid ground on which to work from. Furthermore, it is hoped that the systematic review will identify knowledge gaps that public health practitioners and researchers should prioritise going forward in investigating the epidemiology of pertussis in LMICs.

Only preliminary reviews have been done at this stage. This revealed to us the absence of a systematic review on the topic and an urgent need for one such review for epidemiological evidence of pertussis in LMIC. The protocol has never been previously reviewed.

The study has received no external funding and the authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

Thanking you anticipation.

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