Reviewer's report

Title: Verifying causes of death in Thailand: rationale & methods for empirical investigation

Version: 2 Date: 29 March 2010

Reviewer: Peter Byass

Reviewer's report:

This overarching re-review covers all four Thai mortality measurement papers.

Estimated causes of death in Thailand, 2005: implications for health policy:
** The abstract mentions 12,000 deaths which should be 11,984 to be consistent with the other papers
** first para of Methods: “registration data” is rather imprecisely introduced, meaning the national vital registration database which is crucial to this work, and which may not be clear to someone reading only this paper.
** Table 5: what is “Breast Liver cancer” and “Liver Breast cancer”?
** Table 6: what is “Liver Cervix cancer” and “Cervix Liver cancer”?

Cause of death ascertainment for deaths that occur outside hospitals in Thailand: application of verbal autopsy methods
**Table 6: “HIV” should be “HIV/AIDS” as elsewhere; also inconsistencies between table 6 & 7 over “TB” and “respiratory tuberculosis”

Cause-specific mortality patterns among hospital deaths in Thailand: validating routine death certification: I suggest the title would benefit from a second part, reflecting the style of the other 3 titles and also giving a clearer message about the paper. My suggestion would be “...: validating routine death certification” although of course the authors may have other ideas.

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.