Reviewer’s report

Title: All purulence is local - Epidemiology and management of skin and soft tissue infections in three urban emergency departments

Version: 2 Date: 21 October 2013

Reviewer: Michael David

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. Table 4C. I cannot understand the meaning of the percentages given in these tables despite spending some time looking them over. The Table requires more explanation. Are parts A, B, and C showing mutually exclusive categories?

2. Table 5. When there are variables with mutually exclusive categories (such as insurance type, race, or gender) and a single test is performed and one category is the referent, it is helpful to denote this in the Table with the word "ref." or "referent" in the place of the OR for that category (e.g., I am assuming that the referent categories were "Private", "white" and "male" for the 3 variables noted above).

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. In section 2.5 at the end of the penultimate sentence there is no period.

2. In the seventh paragraph of the Discussion, there is the following sentence: "Given that most isolates even from adults ... and that I & D alone is sufficient therapy for most abscess ..." I would advocate that this be changed to state: ... that I & D alone is sufficient therapy for most uncomplicated abscesses ..."

3. In the eight paragraph, there is the following sentence: "The clinician can opt not to treat purulent infections with antibiotics if adequate I & D is performed." I would advocate that this be changed to "...can opt not to treat uncomplicated, small purulent infections ..." to be consistent with the IDSA MRSA treatment guidelines and good practices.

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 have no competing interests.