Reviewer’s report

Title: Sequential introduction of single room isolation and hand hygiene campaign in the control of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus in intensive care unit

Version: 2 Date: 17 May 2010

Reviewer: Henrik Westh

Reviewer’s report:

This is a very interesting study and adds important information to the value of MRSA isolation in single rooms.

Major Essential Revisions

The study period is quite long. It would therefore be very good to have some data on the prevalent MRSA types during the study period. Changing clones might be a confounder?

I would like to see the absolute numbers of ICU onset nonbacteraemic and bacteraemic MRSA infection in results. As I read it all infections are for the whole study period not for each phase?

Not knowing how many MRSA patients enter the ICU is a lack of important knowledge. If the general burden of MRSA has been decreasing at the hospital this might be reflected in the MRSA bacteraemia rate for the whole hospital? This would be worthwhile looking into.

Minor Essential Revisions

The consumption of antibiotics is measured in DDD or Defined Daily Doses. Bottom page 9 and top page 10 should be im methods.

The statement in the Abstract line 3 and 4 is overly ambitious. It should probably be their hospital not all of Hong Kong

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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 interest.