**Author's response to reviews**

**Title:** Assessing the role of undetected colonization and isolation precautions in reducing Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus transmission in intensive care units.

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**Version:** 4  **Date:** 26 January 2010

**Author's response to reviews:** see over
January 26, 2010

Dr Melissa Norton
Editor-in-Chief

BMC Infectious Diseases
BioMed Central Ltd (publisher)
Floor 6, 236 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8HL

Dear Dr Norton,

We have recently received the comments from the reviewer with regards to our research article revised submission to BMC Infectious Diseases entitled “Assessing the role of undetected colonization and isolation precautions in reducing Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus transmission in intensive care units.”

We would like to thank the referee for his valuable comments and suggestions. We are very glad to hear that our article is, in principle, accepted for publication.

Enclosed please find a revised version of our previous submission in response to the comments made by the reviewer.

Many thanks for your consideration of this work.

Sincerely,
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Reviewer's report

Title: Assessing the role of undetected colonization and isolation precautions in reducing Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus transmission in intensive care units.

Version: 3 Date: 9 November 2009
Reviewer: Martin Bootsma

Major Compulsory Revisions
None

Minor Essential Revisions
Mention which test was used to assess heterogeneity in the data of different wards (Discussion, p=0.982) and mention the I^2 when pooling the estimates of \( \beta_1/\beta_2 \) in the results section.

The text has been changed appropriately. In the Discussion where it is mentioned that Woolf’s test was used. In addition, the values of I^2 when pooling the estimates of \( \beta_1/\beta_2 \) are now reported in the Results section.

Discretionary revisions:
In "Test sensitivity" in "Results", Nares should not be capitalized.

Done

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.