Reviewer’s report

Title: Flocked Nasal Swab versus Nasopharyngeal Aspirate for Detection of Respiratory Tract Viruses in Immunocompromised Adults: a Matched Comparative Study

Version: 1 Date: 25 October 2010

Reviewer: Fausto Baldanti

Reviewer’s report:

The major weakness of this report is that conclusions are based upon a very limited number of samples: the difference in sensitivity for rhinovirus is calculated on the basis of 9 vs 7 positive samples, while the difference in sensitivity for any virus is relevant to 18 vs 13 positive samples.

Another major problem is the storage (up to six h) of NPA and fNS in the absence of transport medium. Thus, differently to NPA samples (containing 2-3 ml of sodium chloride solution), fNS likely reached the lab completely dried out, impairing the subsequent recovery of cells. This storage policy is unusual, being fNS routinely conserved in a transport medium provided by the same company.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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