Reviewer’s report

Title: An investigation of nurses' knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding disinfection procedures in Italy

Version: 2 Date: 22 December 2010

Reviewer: Heike von Baum

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
The paper presents the results of 527 interviews with Italian HCWs concerning disinfection. Most of the questions concentrate on hand washing/dischinfection. Whereas the statistical methods are explained and discussed very thoroughly, the conclusions are modest. Most of the readers might be most interested in the individual results, their interpretation and recommendations for improvements in their own hospitals. Thus, it might be worthwhile to shorten the statistical considerations and discuss the questions and answers of the nice questionnaire, which the authors developed in more detail. For example: Were the 8 participating hospitals comparable with regard to their infection control committee, availability of infection control nurses or hygiene guidelines? Which conclusions draw the authors from specific results and which measures would they recommend? Which established or new strategies e.g. bundles of intervention would they suggest to reach certain goals? What are the analogies with experiences from other countries and what might be a specific problem in the Italian health care system or even of individual institutions?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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 interests