Reviewer's report

Title: Clostridium difficile 027 infection in Italy: where are we now and where are we going?

Version: 2 Date: 6 September 2012

Reviewer: MURAT AKOVA

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written and an important report describing a small cohort of patients infected with hypervirulent C. difficile ribotype 027. The strength of the paper comes that it describes 10 new patients from different institutions in Italy over a two-year period whereas there had been only 8 cases described in a single center previously. My comments are as follows:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) The title reads "C. difficile 027 infections in Italy..." which seems to be assertive. The cases came from the reporting institution or from local hospitals. Unless the authors confirm that these sampling represent the whole Italy (which I seriously doubt), this title does not seem very appropriate and should be changed.

2) It would be interesting if the authors can describe the treatment strategies applied and outcome of the C. difficile 027 infections in those 10 patients.

Discretionary Revisions

1) In Results, the 1st paragraph, the authors mention 24 samples were received from 19 patients. Then 17 patients were found positive for the test organism. I assume that each of these patients had a single isolate. This is not clear from the text and may be clarified.

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 declare that I have no competing interests.