Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence of urinary colonization by ESbetaL Enterobacteriaceae among permanent catheterised inpatient in Italian LTCFs

Version: 5 Date: 15 August 2012

Reviewer: Beatriz M Moreira

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A point prevalence survey of resistant bacteria in urinary catheters form patients admitted to 23 long term care facilities in Italy. A total of 221 patients were screened, 185 were suspect of ESBL producers, mostly E. coli. Most isolates carried a CTX-M type encoding gene. Isolates do not reflect clinical infections, only colonization of urine or urinary catheters.

Results are expected, and similar to those described in different parts of the world. Could be useful for infection control policies in the LTCFs.

Major Compulsory Revisions
Title should not contain abbreviation.

Abstract
Study objective must be described clearly. Methods: We carried out a prevalence point study in…should say “ a point prevalence study”. Describe here the specimen source screened. Define suspect AmpC hyperproducers.

ESBLs producers were screened for resistance genes by PCR assay: it is usually not possible to define ESBL genes just by PCR. Abstract must state other experiments done to characterize beta-lactamases.

Results – 185 of 221 patients showed positive samples – please specify: 221 patients refer to the total screened? Total number of patients in 23 LTCFs?? The numbers presented in this section are very confusing. It is hard to follow the totals for each of the percentages.

Paper text
Manuscript must be thoroughly reviewed and rewritten.

Background. Authors must describe the importance of performing a colonization survey. Why would this be important for antimicrobial use practices? For infection control? The different beta-lactamases are widespread in many different Enterobacterial species.

Methods. Was the study approved by an Ethics Committee?

Formatting of tables must be reviewed.

Table 3. Which are the comparison groups for statistical analysis?
Are there any statistical significant differences for the prevalences of the different beta-lactamases according to geographic region?
**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**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