Author's response to reviews

Title: Derivation and validation of a simple clinical bedside score (ATLAS) for Clostridium difficile infection which predicts response to therapy

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Enclosed please find the revised manuscript entitled “Derivation and validation of a simple clinical bedside score (ATLAS) for Clostridium difficile infection which predicts response to therapy” for consideration of publication in BMC Infectious Disease.

The revised manuscript addresses the 2 reviewers’ comments as follows:

**Reviewer #1 (Cornely)**
1. The abstract has been re-phrased.
2. The discussion has been re-written as per the suggestions.

**Reviewer #2 (Valiquette)**
1. Wording about the limitation of this analysis on the generalizability of the findings is important and can be found in the “discussion” section on lines 146-157.
2. The attempted use of a logistic regression model for the analysis and the reason for choosing the “scoring” system is now included in the “methods” section on lines 66-68.
3. The Receiver Operating Characteristics curve has been calculated for the ATLAS score (from the data available to the readers in table 3) and is shown in figure 1. The area under the curve (AUC) has been calculated and is given in the text (line 117) and in the legend for figure 1.

We would like to thank you once again for your kind consideration of this manuscript for publication in BMC Infectious Disease. This analysis takes advantage of one of the world’s largest database of CDI patients to create a simple bedside scoring system which can be used to predict response to CDI therapy. We hope that the ATLAS score could become an invaluable tool for stratifying CDI patients in order to choose various CDI therapies, for prognosticating treatment success, and for categorizing patients who enter CDI therapeutic research trials.

Most sincerely,

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