Author's response to reviews

Title: Use of Electronic Health Record Data to Identify Skin and Soft Tissue Infections in Primary Care Settings: A Validation Study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Prof. Orsi,

We would like to thank the reviewer for the additional suggestions on our manuscript; we have incorporated all requested revisions. Attached are our summarized responses to each of the reviewer’s comments. Please contact me if you have any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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RESPONSE TO REVIEWER COMMENTS

Inserted below are the suggestions provided by the reviewer followed by a summary of our response to each point.

Reviewer’s report:
The resubmitted version of the manuscript MS-7166347178226484 provided by the authors has certainly improved the manuscript's quality. The authors have attempted to address the concerns raised by the reviewers. However in doing so, the authors neglected a few issues.

1. Specifically, some data are still missing from Table 2 that would enhance the reader’s comprehension of the data.
   a) The authors have provided the missing data for any ICD-9 code for SSTI or IND CPT code or positive wound culture.
   b) It would be advantageous to compare these data to the data for: ICD-9 SSTI code only; ICD-9 cellulitis/abscess codes; and ICD-9 cellulitis/abscess code, that was only body site specific.
   c) The provision of the aforementioned data would enable the reader to fully appreciate how the positive predictive values were formulated in Table 3.

   We have added the requested data to Table 2. Further, in our re-analysis of the data to make the requested addition, we identified that 29 patients were erroneously excluded from the cellulitis/abscess ICD-9 code group in Table 3. This has been corrected.

2. References 1 to 3 are now not quoted in the text and should be deleted. As a result, all the other reference numbers should also be adjusted.

   We have deleted these three references.

3. The abbreviation "MRSA" should be deleted from the list of abbreviations at the end of the text on P. 12.

   We have removed “MRSA” from the list of abbreviations.