Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 18 November 2012

Reviewer: Robert Sawyer

Reviewer's report:

MCR
None

MER
In the results section, I presume the authors mean 54.5% were female, not 545%

DR
I might expand a little more in the discussion in terms of how this informs researchers in the future. Since miscoded patients (patients who had SSTI but did not have an appropriate ICD9 code) were not identified, such a search strategy will detect what are presumably straightforward patients mostly with a single diagnosis for their visit. However, such a homogeneous population would be very useful for internal process improvement and quality initiatives as well as mid-grade observational studies since the patients identified won't represent the totality of those with SSTI.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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