Reviewer’s report

Title: The identification and epidemiology of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus and Clostridium difficile in patient rooms and the ward environment

Version: 2 Date: 22 May 2013

Reviewer: Tim Boswell

Reviewer’s report:

Discretionary revisions

Materials and methods. Please clarify what you mean by MRSA rate. Is this the number of patients identified with MRSA including both infection and colonization? Or are patients with colonization excluded? It would be useful to briefly explain the institution’s MRSA screening protocols.

Materials and methods. Please specify what disinfectants (if any) the hospital cleaning protocol utilizes for routine cleaning and post-infection cleaning.

Discussion. One possibility for detection of MRSA in "unexposed" rooms is that the prior or recent occupant was MRSA +ve with a subsequent failure of cleaning. Was any attempt made to look at previous occupants of these rooms?

It would be useful to reference the work of Carling regarding the known failure to properly clean and disinfect around 50% or critical touch points in patient rooms.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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