Reviewer’s report

Title: Staphylococcus aureus nasal carriage in Ukraine: antibacterial resistance, and virulence factor encoding genes

Version: 1 Date: 3 November 2013

Reviewer: Amy Crowe

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions: Conclusion for abstract needs amending. The influence of travel and migration on the occurrence of virulence factors was not actually what was studied. Conclusion/s should relate back to study findings, i.e. Nasal carriage of Staphylococcus aureus in the study population was high, rate of CA-MRSA was relatively low, PVL and lukE-lukD + fnb was the most common combination of virulence factors present.

Minor essential revisions:

Page 5
Line 1, clearly state how many swabs from each patient.. ? was it two.

Discussion: Suggest discussion of study limitations, ie- cannot breakdown findings for intermittent and persistent carriers. Overall rate of Staphylococcus aureus carriage may have been higher if axilla and groin also swabbed.

Table 3.
Suggest just list percentage with decimal point not comma i.e. 89.9%. May also be clearer to list n (%). i.e. cefoxitin 90 (90.9%). Same for table 2 and 4.

Need to list Rifampicin % as 91.1% to ensure consistency with reporting all percentages to same decimal place.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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