Reviewer’s report

Title: Development of Quality Indicators for Antimicrobial Treatment in Adults with Sepsis

Version: 1 Date: 31 December 2013

Reviewer: Michael Millar

Reviewer’s report:

The authors should be commended for trying to develop QI indicators for the treatment of sepsis.

There is nothing unusual or surprising about the proposals for QI indicators apart from the fact that the authors seem to have given little explicit consideration to local factors such as outbreaks or local resistance patterns. Perhaps these considerations are included in the Dutch National Guidelines, but it is hard to see how failing to take account of an outbreak of carbapenem resistant bacteria in prescribing practice indicates quality prescribing. The quality indicators (in the opinion of this referee) should say something about the account taken of local factors. National guidelines may reflect local experience across Holland, but it is far from clear that that applies in the UK context or more widely. Perhaps the authors could be asked to comment on this last point with respect to the generalisability of the recommendations?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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