Author's response to reviews

Title: Burden of carbapenem-resistant organisms in the Frankfurt/Main Metropolitan Area in Germany 2012/2013 - first results and experiences after the introduction of legally mandated reporting

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Version: 2
Date: 18 March 2014

Author's response to reviews:

Dear Neil,

Thank you for your email from 18th March 2014. The main text file has been revised. The manuscript 5800185171240351 has been changed as follows:

1. Line numbers were added
2. Page breaks were deleted

Concerning your request of an ethics statement please let me know whether an ethics statement is required for this type of article. The descriptive study presents material which is the result of public health surveillance. No medical interventions have been performed for this study. Only anonymized data have been used. The data contain no direct or indirect person identifiers. The type of data is similar to that presented in a current article “Epidemiology of campylobacteriosis in Germany – insights from 10 years of surveillance” by Anika Schielke in your journal in which I could not find any statement to this effect. According to the NHS Health Research Authority for example this type of study would not qualify as research requiring approval by an Ethics Committee (http://www.hra-decisiontools.org.uk/research/result7.html), similarly according to a verbal statement of the Hessian State Medical Board such an approval is not required.

Thanks and kind regards,

Niels Kleinkauf