Reviewer’s report

Title: How long do nosocomial pathogens persist on inanimate surfaces? A systemic review

Version: 2 Date: 23 June 2006

Reviewer: William Rutala

Reviewer’s report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
I did not receive Figure 1. Since suspending medium, material tested, relative humidity and temperature are so important to the survival of human pathogens it would be preferred if that information could be incorporated into Table 1. It would likely explain the wide ranges shown in Table 1 (e.g., adenovirus 7 days to 3 months). Can the authors make any conclusions from their review of the literature such as: enveloped viruses survive better in dryer conditions and lower relative humidities than are tolerated by non-enveloped viruses; elevated temperatures are detrimental to virus survival, etc? It would also be nice to discuss the transfer of pathogenic microorganisms to hands from both porous and non-porous surfaces and from hands to surfaces.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.