Reviewer's report

Title: Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus prevalence: Current susceptibility patterns in Trinidad.

Version: 1 Date: 31 March 2006

Reviewer: Paul Brown

Reviewer's report:

General

---------------------------------------------------------------

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
(1) Page 10. The authors noted that MRSA data from the Caribbean was scanty, and only referenced a previous paper from Trinidad. The following paper (Bodonaik NC, et al., Antimicrobial resistance in clinical isolates of Staphylococcus aureus at the University Hospital of the West Indies, West Indian Med J. 1984:33(1):8-13) should be included in the discussion.

---------------------------------------------------------------

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
(1) Page 3. The statements ‘HCPs may also be carriers…to eradicate this organism’ cannot be concluded from the study and should be removed from the abstract. Further, these were not included in the discussion section.

(2) Page 3 and Page 11 – para 2. It is surprising that the authors mention the increase in the methicillin resistance among community sources as stable, when they report a doubling of the rate. It is not clear whether they analyzed the data statistically (no p value is given) or that they did not find a statistical difference between them.

(3) Page 7, line 3. Insert bracket before 5?g)

(4) Page 8, para 2. Community strains seem to be redundant at the end of the paragraph.

(5) Page 8, para 3. Insert isolates after MRSA.

(6) Page 9, line 6. The authors should explain what is meant by ‘improvements’ in susceptibility …. The sentence following would be better placed in the discussion.

(7) Page 9, last sentence. It is apparent that reference to Table 5 is missing from the section. Please include this here.

(8) Page 10, para 2. ‘acquired’ should be changed to ‘practice’ based on the authors’ definition of terms in the Methods section. Change maybe to may be

(9) Page 11, para 1. Change MRSAs to MRSA isolates.

(10) Page 13-18. The authors should check that all references comply with the ‘Instructions to authors’, e.g., no periods after abbreviations, article title in bold, sentence case for article title, journal name in italics, volume number in bold. Specific references to correct include: 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 23, 27, 29, 32, 36.
Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
(1) Page 21. Centre values in column 3

(2) Page 22. Centre values in columns 1 and 2. Remove extra bracket from column 2.

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests