Reviewer's report

Title: Does vancomycin prescribing intervention affect vancomycin-resistant enterococcus infection and colonization in hospitals? A systematic review

Version: Date: 20 February 2007

Reviewer: Eli N Perencevich

Reviewer's report:

I have re-reviewed the manuscript by de Bruin and Riley. They have made the suggested revisions to a satisfactory degree. I have two additional suggestions given that I was reminded of a paper previously published on this topic.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) The authors should review and reference this paper (Harbarth S, Cosgrove S and Carmeli Y, Effects of Antibiotics on Nosocomial Epidemiology of VRE, Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, June 2002 p1619-28) in the background section with at least one sentence since it was a good review that preceded theirs and referenced at least 6 of the articles they included in their systematic review.

2) In this paper by Harbarth, I noticed one article that might have been included in this review (Belliveau PP et al. Am. J Health Syst Pharm 1996 53:1570-75). The authors should include this article in their table and analysis if it met their inclusion criteria. It is possible that they already considered this article and excluded it, which is OK.

Minor Essential Revisions

On page 11 in the results section under Stratified analysis, the authors have added a sentence that states: "Although it was not statistically significant, studies that used vancomycin…." I suggest that they change the word "used" to "controlled"

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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