Reviewer's report

Title: Accuracy of Antibiotic Treatment in Intravenous Drug Users, a Retrospective Analysis

Version: 2 Date: 7 December 2007

Reviewer: Eric Mortensen

Reviewer's report:

Overall this is an interesting manuscript that examines appropriateness of antibiotic treatments for IV drug users and whether it is associated with improved outcomes

Major Compulsory Revisions
none

Minor Essential Revisions
1) In the title, and throughout the manuscript, the authors refer to "accuracy of antibiotic treatment...." This term is incorrect. It should be "appropriateness."
2) In the introduction the authors need to provide the aim of the study and the a priori study hypotheses.
3) Provide a detailed list of data elements that were abstracted.
4) Per the manuscript infectious disease diagnoses were defined according to CDC criteria however the authors reference a book on hospital epidemiology. Please correct.
5) Also please state how was sepsis defined.
6) Provide additional information on standards of treatment for each condition. I would suggest putting this information in a table.
7) How were variables selected for the multivariable models?
8) All odds ratio and confidence intervals should be rounded to nearest 1st decimal place. There are a insufficient number of subjects for accuracy greater than that.
9) Page 9- "betalactam" should be "beta-lactam"

Discretionary Revisions
1) If possible provide severity of illness information for each condition (e.g. pneumonia cases either the CURB-65 or PSI).
2) Rather than examining only simple sepsis I would recommend that they also examine severe sepsis.
**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**: Needs some language corrections before being published

**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.