Reviewer's report

**Title:** Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus and Acinetobacter baumannii on computer interface surfaces of hospital wards and association with clinical infections

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 9 February 2009

**Reviewer:** Caroline Marshall

**Reviewer's report:**

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Could the authors give a bit more description of the type of hospital and its services eg does it house paediatrics and obstetrics and gynaecology, is it a tertiary referral hospital, does it have a burns/trauma unit etc?

2. Throughout the manuscript and title, there were a number of instances where clinical isolates are referred to as clinical infections. No evidence has been provided that these isolates were causing infection rather than colonisation and therefore, they should be referred to as “clinical isolates” rather than “clinical infections”.

3. The authors have stated that MRSA, P. aeruginosa and A. baumannii are the most common causes of nosocomial infection, however, in some institutions this is not so. The authors should state that these organisms are “among” the most common causes of nosocomial infection. For example, there is no reference to vancomycin resistant enterococcus (VRE) in this manuscript. This is a well known environmental pathogen and a common cause of nosocomial infection in some institutions.

4. In the first paragraph of the Materials and methods and the Results section “….. MRSA, P. aeruginosa and A. baumannii” should be changed to “…..S. aureus, Pseudomonas species and Acinetobacter species” in the first and second sentences respectively. Numbers of S. aureus, Pseudomonas species and Acinetobacter species were initially reported with species being subsequently reported.

5. In the discussion section, I am not sure of the relevance of healthcare worker nasal contamination to computer contamination and I would remove this sentence.

**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:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests