Reviewer’s report

Title: Epidemic spread of ST1-MRSA-IVa in a neonatal intensive care unit, Italy

Version: 4 Date: 1 May 2012

Reviewer: Linda K McDougal

Reviewer’s report:

English needs editing for meaning, structure, word choice, typographical errors, tense and grammar.

The authors should address the result that the index case in this NICU study acquired the strain while in another hospital setting. Although ST1-MRSA-IVa isolates are considered CA-MRSA strains, the outbreak started because an infant with an endemic healthcare-associated infection was transferred into the unit. Hence, this was a healthcare-associated infection caused by ST1-MRSA-IVa that was not introduced from a community reservoir.

Did the intervention measures eliminate the endemic colonizing ST22 strain?

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

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.