Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of the national surveillance system for point-prevalence of healthcare-associated infections in hospitals and in long-term care facilities for elderly in Norway, 2004-2008

Version: 1 Date: 31 August 2011

Reviewer: Jean-Michel Thiolet

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Such evaluations are not so often published and this paper should be interesting.

Nevertheless, we are in 2011: data provided by the netwwork from 2004 to 2008 were analysed, questionnaires were sent in 2007. So, some questions rise up:
- why this delay?
- this evaluation is still relevant?
- how was performed the dissemination of the results to contributers and users of the system?

2. Incidence surveillance network provide also data in Norway (at least for data sent to ECDC). The authors should discuss the links between the different networks.

3. Results of prevalence survey at the hospital level should be interpreted carefully, even in case of repeated surveys, especially if events are rare. This point should be discuss.

4. This evaluation should include the point of view from users of the data not only at the hospital level. Why, this evaluation was not done?

5. Data were used to support a national program against HAI: the authors should provide details in order to answer to this question: to what extent the data contribute to planification?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests.