Reviewer's report

Title: Data correction pre-processing for electronically stored blood culture results: implications on microbial spectrum and empiric antibiotic therapy

Version: 2 Date: 23 April 2009

Reviewer: Stefan Riedel

Reviewer's report:

All previous corrections and comments have been adequately addressed.

However, in making corrections to the original manuscript, the authors made one major mistake, requiring Major Compulsory Revision:

On page 14, line 13, the authors state the following: "Because of the exclusive action against gram positive organisms, compounds like fusidic acid, fosfomycin..."

The sentence has to be revised because the statement is incorrect: Fosfomycin has broad spectrum of activity against most gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria isolated from patients with lower urinary tract infections. CLSI guidelines consider this group of antimicrobials appropriate for the treatment of urinary tract infections. In other types of infections (e.g. blood stream infections, endocarditis) the use of fosfomycin and related drugs may only be indicated in combination with another broad spectrum antimicrobial such as fluoroquinolone, beta-lactam, etc. Please reword this paragraph, or eliminate the discussion on fusidic acid, fosfomycin, etc all together, as it does not add to the value of the evaluation of blood culture contaminants and empiric therapy in this paper.

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.