Reviewer's report

Title: Safety checklists for use by medical care teams in acute hospital settings

Version: 2 Date: 25 May 2011

Reviewer: Doug Elliott

Reviewer's report:

1. The question for the SR is clear and well defined.
2. The methods reflect PRISMA guidelines and are therefore appropriate and well described
3. The data are sound
4. The manuscript adheres to the relevant PRISMA standards for reporting and data deposition
5. The discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately supported by the data
6. Limitations of the work are clearly
7. Other work is acknowledged
8. Title and abstract accurately convey the methods and findings
9. Writing is of a high quality

Major Compulsory Revisions
There are no revisions required in this category.

Minor Essential Revisions
Although alluded to in the discussion, I suggest that a specific sub-section on ‘recommendations for practice’ (equivalent to ‘Implications for further research’) would be of additional benefit for readers (despite the low level evidence)

Discretionary Revisions
My suggestions are:
Page / paragraph / line
6 / 1 / 5: cite references where a reduction in ICU LOS was observed
6 / 1 / last 5 lines: these two sentences (studies about reduced LOS) can be re-located to before ‘Agarwal’ (6 / 1 / 6) to improve flow of argument, and address the above comment
Consider a re-format percentages from ‘97% to 100%’ to ‘97-100%’ to improve readability; e.g. 6 / 1 / 15-17
6 / 2: synthesis of study findings can be improved with further editing, and
reducing the ‘strong-author’ orientation to sentence structure in this paragraph

7 / 1 / 1-2: depending on the above comment, there may need to be some elaboration of the methods and findings from Romangnuolo in this sentence

8 / 1 / 5: assume this was ‘appropriate’ antibiotics

17-Table 2: narrative could be further edited to reduce superfluous terms and resulting white space

**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