Reviewer's report

Title: An outpatient antibiotic stewardship intervention during the journey to JCI accreditation

Version: 2 Date: 4 November 2013

Reviewer: Joshua Courter

Reviewer's report:

The information within the manuscript is important to the antimicrobial stewardship community. However, the amount of editing needed is beyond what can be provided by a reviewer at this time. I would recommend the authors seek editorial assistance and re-submit. Some corrections are found below:

Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore)

Overall, recommend removing first-person writing style (i.e. we, our)

• Page 2; Abstract; Results; Sentence 1: Would change to – “The variety of antibiotics available…”

• Page 3; Paragraph 1; Sentence 2: Would change to – The benefits of antimicrobial stewardship have been well described and implemented in the inpatient setting, but there are few programs targeting the outpatient population”.

• Page 3; Paragraph 2; Sentences 4-5: Recommend combining sentences.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

• Page 2; Abstract; Background; Sentence 2: Would change to - “The Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation standards include quality improvement and patient safety, which is exemplified by antimicrobial stewardship”. –Cite JCI Accreditation Standards for Hospitals, 4th edition.

• Page 2; Abstract; Background; Sentence 3: Would change to - “There are currently few reports on interventions to improve the quality of outpatient antibiotic prescribing.”

• Page 2; Abstract; Results; Sentence 2: Would change to - “The proportion of prescriptions that were antibiotics significantly decreased following the intervention (12.7% versus 9.9%, p<0.01)”. 

• Page 2; Abstract; Results; Sentence 3: Would change to - “The overall proportion of oral versus all antibiotic prescriptions also increased (94.0% to 100% p<0.01) when measured as defined daily doses”.

• Page 2; Abstract; Results; Sentence 4: Would change to – “Occurrence of DRPs decreased from 13.6% to 4.0% (P< 0.01), with a larger decrease seen in surgical consulting rooms (surgical: 19.5% versus 5.6%; internal medicine: 8.4% versus 2.8%, P< 0.01).
• Page 2; Keywords: Recommend adding “stewardship”

• Page 6; Paragraph 3; Sentence 1: the abbreviation, “p.o.” has not been previously defined.

Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**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