Reviewer's report

Title: Supporting the improvement and management of antimicrobial prescribing in primary care, through electronic data collection and local prescribing surveillance - A feasibility Study.

Version: 2 Date: 18 January 2015

Reviewer: Natalie Kennie-Kaulbach

Reviewer's report:

This article describes an innovative process for collecting data related to antimicrobial prescribing in primary care. Antimicrobial stewardship in primary care is of importance due to the large number of antibiotics prescribed and potential for antimicrobial resistance. The article is clear and well written. My comments below outline a number of discretionary revisions to be considered.

The authors clearly outline the rationale for the study and relevant background. Data collection methods appear to be via an established network that has been used previously. I am not able to comment specifically on the statistical analysis and have requested review by a statistician. It was not entirely clear in the methods what specific data related to antimicrobial prescriptions was being extracted from the patient records. However, the quality indicators used by the study are well described in Table 2.

The results illustrate specific data that can be collected using this method of data collection which may be useful for reporting and comparing antimicrobial consumption among regions. The biggest limitation to this described method of data collection is not having access to the indication of therapy, which would be useful to better describe the quality of antibiotic prescribing. This limitation is mentioned in the discussion section.

It may be beneficial to more fully describe how this data collection directly from primary care practices compared to usual methods through pharmacy records. There is a useful comparison of this in the discussion section (line 153-164). I would be interested in the specific differences in quality of the data extracted if any.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.