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:** 22 January 2015

**Reviewer:** Diane Ashiru-Oredope

**Reviewer’s report:**

An important contribution to the knowledge required for this important public health area. Use of the data to calculate DDD/DID particularly useful contribution to surveillance of antimicrobial consumption

Would be helpful to know if the authors plan to publish further analysis of the data.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

Background states: .....and evaluate the quality of prescribing by applying the European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Consumption (ESAC) drug specific quality indicators to identify potential areas for improvement in antimicrobial prescribing in primary care. Whilst these are reported in the tables and some description in the discussion; I am not sure the discussion reflects an evaluation of the quality of prescribing

Important to include explanation: Excessive use of quinolone is perhaps more important for C.diff rather than resistance alone; especially as majority of prescriptions to age group 60-79. Are there any differences in C.diff cases during the summer months compared to winter?

There should be a discussion/comparison with how other countries already collate prescribing data e.g. in England, Scotland, Wales it is centrally collated for all NHS prescriptions – free and paid. But not private prescriptions. How does this method compare?

In the introduction, it will be useful to explain briefly the Irish system for surveillance of prescribing data in general

Noted figure 1 – total DDD decreases in summer months but quinolone use increases….this should be included in discussion

**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'