Reviewer's report

Title: Low prevalence of methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus as determined by an automated identification system in two private hospitals in Nairobi, Kenya: A cross sectional study

Version: 2 Date: 2 April 2014

Reviewer: Beverly Egyir

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revision
1. Kindly include the concentration of antimicrobial agents
2. Please indicate the antimicrobial resistance pattern of other antimicrobial agents tested on the 3 isolates resistant to oxacillin but susceptible to cefoxitin in the results section
3. Lines 165-166: You mentioned “MRSA prevalence of 21% in S.aureus bacteremia isolates 165 collected between January 2003 and April 2008 at AKUHN” kindly state the method used in that study.
4. Consider to include these references: Egyir et al., 2013; 2014 to support low MRSA prevalence (studies from Ghana (West Africa))
5. Line: 235-236: I suggest you support the differences in antimicrobial resistance of isolates from the various hospitals include the various antibiotics prescribed in the two hospitals. I suggest you correlate MRSA prevalence in the hospitals with the usage of antimicrobial agents in both hospitals
6. Line 242- 244: You mentioned CDC definition? It will be difficult to know if isolates were community acquired. From your study, one cannot tell whether patients have been exposed to hospital environment or not, and isolates from patients at the OPD does not make them community isolates. Some may have been hospitalized in the past year. By your study community acquired isolates were not differentiated from isolates and hospital acquired isolates? If not, consider rephrasing the sentence
7. Any limitation such as difficulty in record keeping the lab, which is common in most African labs
8. Table 4: is the total number of MRSA 27 or 28??
9. I suggest you merge Table 2 and 3

Minor Essential Revision
1. There are a few typographical errors in the text, kindly use the spelling and grammar check. (example in line 170: ........susceptibility data .A 2010)
2. All S. aureus/ Staphylococcus aureus should be in italics
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 interest