Reviewer’s report

Title: Streptococcal toxic shock syndrome caused by the dissemination of an invasive emm3/ST15 strain of Streptococcus pyogenes

Version: 1 Date: 25 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Claire Turner

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the revision. The authors have answered all my comments appropriately. I have three more comments though on the revisions made.

Line 105. Where the prophage regions also excluded? if not then this cannot be described as the 'core' genome.

Line 112. This sentence needs further clarification. The KS03 strain carries the 1bp deletion in rocA that is common to all emm3 isolates sequenced (please provide a reference for this). Aside from this, there are no more genetic features described in the supplementary table therefore the last part of the sentence should be removed.

Line 123. rocA and emm genes need to be in italics. The deletion in rocA does not lead to an absence of CovR/S activity. This should be described as an absence of RocA activity on the CovR/S resulting in the de-repression of more than a dozen....

Are the methods appropriate and well described?  
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?  
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Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?  
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Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?  
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Not relevant to this manuscript

**Quality of written English**
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