Reviewer’s report

Title: Examining the online approaches used by hospitals in Sydney, Australia to inform patients about healthcare associated infections and infection prevention strategies

Version: 0 Date: 28 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Lesley Price

Reviewer's report:

The article is interesting and although similar work has been conducted in other areas of healthcare it appears to be a novel and relevant topic for infection prevention and control. It is useful that the authors set the article in context and justify the importance of the topic in the background and they have used appropriate published tools for assessing the suitability, readability and accessibility of patient web-based information. However, as the authors acknowledge the relevance of the findings is limited to the 19 out of the 121 hospitals in Sydney that were included in the study. It is stated that the inclusion criteria were hospital over 200 beds but not why these were chosen or if the sample size of 19 was because only this size of hospitals were included. Given that the data collected was publicly available on the web there does not seem to be any reason why the authors have restricted themselves to looking at web-based patient information only in these 19 hospitals. Wider data collection could have made the findings relevant to a much broader audience. For this reason I do not recommend publishing in BMC Infectious Diseases.

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

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.
I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
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Acceptable

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