Reviewer's report

Title: Increasing Nontuberculous Mycobacteria Reporting Rates and Species Diversity Identified in Clinical Laboratory Reports

Version: 0 Date: 08 Jan 2018

Reviewer: Rogerio Ruas

Reviewer's report:

Page 3, line 56: NTM's natural habitat…
Page 3, line 57: of all NTM isolates are pulmonary…
Page 4, line 75: suggests that exposure to these NTM species is potentially increasing
Page 5, line 110: not changed dramatically, unlike the procedures used for identification
Page 5, line 112: introduced in the 1990's were the methods…
Page 7, line 148: NTM reports have increased over
Page 9, line 189: why are the the state's reports numbers lower than the numbers reported by Medicare part B? The reasons provided (state including more population and more than one specimen being collected) make us expect the inverse results - the state's total should be bigger.
Page 9,line 197: these results don't demonstrate, they suggest that NTMs have universal, yearly impact on human health in the U.S. and that the case load appears to be increasing.
Page 10, line 212: literature to support these statements
Page 10, line 219 and page 11, line 231 contradict themselves: The species responsible for NTM illnesses has shifted moderately over time/The species of NTM causing most infections has not changed much over time
Page 12, line 254: the line "The lack of seasonality suggests that routes of illness and or disease occur year-round and may not be influenced by seasonal changes in activities of the infected population" is better placed at the beginning of the paragraph when it is stated that "The lack of a seasonal affect is probably due to the fact that pulmonary NTM lung infection and/or diseases are not acute illnesses." The phrase : "This mean that doctors and clinicians must be aware year-round to the possibility that a patient may have acquire an NTM infection" is not needed in my opinion.
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?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

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

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