**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Lessons from an active surveillance pilot to assess the Pneumonia of Unknown Etiology Surveillance System in China, 2016: the need to increase clinician participation in the detection and reporting of emerging respiratory infectious diseases

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 26 Nov 2018

**Reviewer:** Fiona Russell

**Reviewer's report:**

This observational study describes a surveillance system for acute respiratory emerging infections in two hospitals in China and compares clinician reporting with surveillance officer reporting.

Title: the title needs to be more specific and reflect the methods and results

Abstract: the methods do not describe the analytical methods used to answer the research question— it just describes the reporting. The results do not reflect the main results. The conclusion does not reflects the main findings.

Introduction: needs to have a specific research aim at the end of the Introduction

Methods
Does not describe the statistical tests used to make comparisons

Results
The first paragraph should be moved to the methods as a description of the study sites

A statistical test (p value) should be applied to compare the results obtained by the clinicians and surveillance officers (Table 2)

Discussion

There are 3 main findings:
1. If all the cases that met the case definition were reported, the numbers would be so great it would not be feasible. There are no recommendations made such as reporting just on selected days, selecting a random sample, or until a certain threshold is met. These and other potential options need to be discussed.
2. Underreporting by clinicians due to lack of awareness
3. Differences in reporting between the 2 hospitals
These should be mentioned in the both abstract and the discussion

**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

**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**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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