Reviewer’s report

Title: Web-based Infectious Disease Surveillance Systems and Public Health Perspectives: A Systematic Review.

Version: 0 Date: 22 Sep 2016

Reviewer: Lawrence C. Madoff

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript provides a compendium of some of the online biosurveillance tools currently or recently available. There are no analyses of the systems in terms of quality or quantity of data provided.

Specific comments:

Background: the paper gives a reasonable explanation of the rationale for web-based biosurveillance systems

Methods: It is not entirely clear how papers were "filtered". The exact criteria need to be specified.

p. 6 line 24: ProMED was established by FAS but has been a program of the International Society for Infectious Diseases since 1999.

p. 8 ProMED-mail is a moderated system, not an automatic one

Table 1. Biosurveillance is usually written as one word. "Digital Disease Detection" is another commonly used term that might be included here.

Figure 2. Google flu trends is no longer functioning (I believe as of 2015).

There are some errors of English usage and the paper would benefit by careful copy editing.

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.

Unable to assess
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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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