**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Evaluation of Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology Specialists' Preferences for Hand Hygiene: Analysis Using the Multi-Attribute Utility Theory and the Analytic Hierarchy Process Methods

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 25 May 2017

**Reviewer:** Gurprit Grover

**Reviewer's report:**

**Comments**

In the present article, authors have verified a known fact with the techniques which have been used in health care related decisions but have not been applied to this topic earlier. The methodologies and applications of the Multi Attribute Utility Theory and Analytic Hierarchy Process were presented in detail; however, I am concerned about the presentation of the article. The geographic location of the study is not given anywhere in the text. The 15 experts interviewed are purposively selected, which is obvious for a qualitative study, but it should be mentioned in the methodology section, though it is mentioned in limitations. Have authors tested the validity of the questionnaire used?

Many points in this article are presented repeatedly in text, tables and figures and some references are missing also.

First I point out some repetition,

1. There is no need to provide description and sometimes results also in the tables and figures titles while these are also presented in the text.

2. Page 9, paragraph 3: the first line of the result section, "the MAUT and AHP……" is already been used in methodology.

3. Table 5 and figure 2 presented almost the same results, so one can be deleted.
The citations which are in text but not in the list of references,


3. Page 15, Discussion: In the last line, no reference is there for Schmidt et al. (2011).

4. The self citation of the authors in the discussion (paragraph 1) can be clubbed with other references in the line no. 5 in same paragraph.

In the discussion section, second line of paragraph 2, "additionally, we statistically….": "assessed" is more suitable in my opinion than "predicted" here as the technique is not used to predict anything.

**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.

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
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