Reviewer's report

Title: Mixed Messages or Lack of Consensus? A qualitative study of the impact of the Prescribing Analysis System on the prescribing behaviors of physicians in Korea

Version: 2 Date: 15 April 2015

Reviewer: Bruce Sunderland

Reviewer's report:

The paper covers important fundamental themes that were perceived by prescriber's influencing their prescribing of antibiotics in the community setting in Korea.

I would make the following comments:

1. The Introduction is unclear regarding the availability and status of STGs for antibiotics in Korea. It is stated the PAS system monitors antibiotic prescribing but against what standards is unclear. It is unfortunate the data were collected in 2009 as there could have been changes made affecting the findings over the past six years.

2. The methodology does not make it clear that each medical specialty group was in a separate focus group.

3. The facilitator of the focus groups is not included in the methodology.

4. Page 7 lines 15 and 16 gives the impression of generalizing the findings which is beyond the scope of focus group findings.

5. The themes brought out in the findings are important however it is unexpected that antibiotic resistance was not a theme, since this is one of the main reasons for judicious prescribing.

6. The statement in italics on page 18 line 12 is out of context.

7. The Discussion is comprehensive and considers the conflicting issues.

8. Findings in the Results section did not seem to support the statement on Page 20 Line 12 that most participants were indifferent towards or ignorant of the evaluation reports. It seemed to me they resented them.

9. I did not identify results that lead to the statement on Page 20 Lines 20-23 that antibiotic excessive prescriptions should be prohibited through some means. It seemed to me the prescriber's were opposed to any interference in their prescribing.

10. I would have thought that the word professionalism on Page 21 Line 6 was not appropriate as much of the antibiotic prescribing was based on patient demand rather than professionalism.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely
related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare I have no competing interests