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Electronic hand hygiene monitoring as a tool for reducing health care-associated methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus infection

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J. William Kelly 🥏, Dawn Blackhurst, Wendy McAtee, Connie Steed

Kevin Kavanagh commented 5 months ago

PubMed Commons

We have expressed concerns in a previous letter and PubMed Common's posting regarding the article by Kelly, et al,(1) where the efficacy of the evaluated product may have been overstated.(2, 3) In the authors reply, data was presented which presents less than a 30% reduction(4) as opposed to a 42% which is stated in the article and advertised by the company.(1,5) To our knowledge the peer-review record has not been corrected. In addition, we have concerns regarding at least the appearance of an undeclared conflict-ofinterest between one of the article's authors, Connie Steed, and the company in question, DebMed.(6)

It has come to the authors' attention that the editor in charge of adjudicating the above concerns may also have a conflict-of-interest with DebMed and with one of the authors of the manuscript in question. Significant concerns regarding the conflicts of interest of the Editor Elaine Larson have arisen because of the following associations:

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• Connie Steed, RN is listed as the 2016 Secretary for the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc., which has as its official publication the American Journal of Infection Control(10) and provides this Journal as a benefit of their membership.(11)

We feel that because of the above, the appearance of a conflict of interest exists which may have clouded the decision making and inhibited the correction of the potential research integrity problems in the article in question.

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#1 Xanthopsoroma Soccatum commented 4 months ago

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