Reviewer's report

Title: Health Alliance for prudent antibiotic prescribing in patients with Respiratory Tract Infections - the impact of a multifaceted intervention programme

Version: 1 Date: 23 March 2011

Reviewer: Martin Gulliford

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-presented paper that described a multinational study of antibiotic prescribing for respiratory tract infection.

The study suffers from the obvious limitations that there is no control group, no randomisation, and recruitment is by GPs who are aware of the study objectives. As such the estimate of the intervention effect is likely to be larger than from an RCT. While some of these issues are acknowledged in the Discussion, I recommend that the title should include the words 'non-randomised'. The limitations of the design should also be acknowledged in the Abstract.

The data are clustered by general practice and country but no details are given of statistical analyses. Confidence intervals may be too narrow. The paper should clarify how this issue has been addressed.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'