Reviewer's report

Title: Addressing the deficiencies in the evidence-base for primary practice in regional Australia - Sentinel Practices Data Sourcing (SPDS) Project: A Pilot Study

Version: 4 Date: 23 July 2013

Reviewer: Tom Love

Reviewer's report:

General comments: markedly improved description of a) some of the method and data cleaning, and b) the strength and limitations of the study, and its applicability and generalisability.

Discretionary Revisions

Two further suggested revisions:

1) The graph in figure 5 (which doesn't seem to be referred to in the text) is a major improvement from the original, but it is not straightforward to distinguish some of the lines, so a different colour and line type scheme could make it more accessible to the reader.

2) The population counts graph (2a) and rates (figures five) are based on very small numbers in the older age groups, with a denominator of only 2 patients in the 90-94 group. It may be more meaningful to amalgamate the counts for patients aged 80+.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests