Reviewer’s report

Title: Improvement in the management of gout is vital and overdue: an audit from a UK primary care medical practice

Version: 1 Date: 13 June 2013

Reviewer: Geoffrey C Wall

Reviewer’s report:

The authors report on an audit of a large primary care clinic in regard to appropriate care of gout patients as compared to published guidelines. In general it is very well written.

Major Compulsory Revisions

None.

Minor Essential Revisions

I would consider comments in the manuscript on the following:

1-Although both the British, EULAR and ACR guidelines all discuss the importance of lifestyle modification, actual evidence that such modification alone is beneficial is scant. I believe the authors should mention this

2-Did the authors look at clinical outcomes such as number of gouty arthritis flares and their relation to maintenance treatment (i.e. did gouty flares occur more often in patients on allopurinol that were not at SUA goal?) This information would add a compelling piece to the authors’ recommendations

3-Were any patients on drugs known to lower SUA (losartan or fenofibrate)?

4-Were any acute gouty flares treated in clinic? If so with what and what were their outcomes?

Discretionary Revisions

The authors note the lack of patients with renal function measurement. Were allopurinol patients monitored more frequently? Were any adverse events to allopurinol found in the audit?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:
No conflicts of interest to declare