Reviewer's report

Title: Asthma and COPD in primary health care, quality according to national guidelines: a cross-sectional and a retrospective study.

Version: 1 Date: 25 January 2008

Reviewer: Ivo Smeele

Reviewer's report:

Major revisions.

General:
The article is too long for the message, I suggest maximum 1500 words.

Background: A major study question (of interest) is the relation with time the nurse has, it should be described.

Methods:
A table with the chosen items of structure and process of care would be valuable.

Power calculation is done on which indicator?

Is it possible to test statistically the correlations between structure and process of care for all the (relevant) items and present the results? (negative or positive). Than the significant correlations can be further explored.

Results:
Is it possible to first present the results on the quality of the given care and then in a separate section the results of the correlations between structure and process?

Presentation of results in median, quartiles and min-maximum?
The text is too much repeating what is presented in the tables.

Concerning the last paragraph of the results: " The number of contacts each patient had had with the ACNP showed a linear association with time reserved for ACNP at each centre. Etc. " What does it say? More time gives more consultations? But does it lead to better process of care? The highest level of time didn't show better process of care on the chosen indicators?

Discussion:
First page (I miss page numbers): The relevance of the indicators should be described in the methods.

Literature on quality of care on asthma and COPD in primary care should be discussed and also other studies tried to say something on the relation between structure and process. They should be discussed. What does these results add to our body of knowledge?

Nothing is said about the level of care and if it is sufficient or not. Is there a
benchmark concerning these indicators.
In the PCRJ of October 2007 there is a short report on the issue of time a nurse has for asthma and COPD care. (page 319)

**What next?:** Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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