Reviewer's report

**Title:** Mortality following acute pancreatitis: social deprivation, hospital size and time of admission: record linkage study

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 2 February 2014

**Reviewer:** Marcel M Spanier

**Reviewer's report:**

Generally, the manuscript is still not easy to read because too much data are reported and listed in the Tables and the data or not always easily ordered.

The authors did not report separately first versus recurrent attacks. Now they comment in the footnotes... should be in the manuscript itself or in the Result section

The authors do not comment on "unique cases", meaning a true unique person, identified on e.g. sex, birth date, race,... How was this checked?

The definition of a first attack is still weak. The time period of preceding 60 days, should be at least one year.

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

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests