Reviewer's report

**Title:** Population-Based Cohort Study of Outpatients with Pneumonia: Rationale, Design and Baseline Characteristics

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 21 October 2011

**Reviewer:** ALBERTO Capelastegui

Reviewer's report:

Comments for the authors:

This is an ambitious project carried out by a research team made up of experts on the topic who have lots of experience.

The goal of this article is to explain the rationale, methodology and objectives of a research study to be developed in future articles, about a population-based cohort of outpatients with community-acquired pneumonia.

It deals with an observational prospective study of multiple hospitals, where the researchers were able to study a large population-based clinical cohort of patients managed according to a well-validated clinical pneumonia pathway.

The methodology used guarantees the quality of the data and information that was collected. The variables that were gathered will undoubtedly provide answers to important questions. The exceptional size of the cohort (>3000 patients) gives the study the requisite statistical power. The future key research objectives they outline are undoubtedly very interesting and they should be able to provide answers for them. The limitations they admit to are bounded and reasonable. The research team’s experience is a guarantee of the future applicability of the results.

**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:**

I declare that I have no competing interests