Reviewer's report

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

Version: 3 Date: 16 April 2012

Reviewer: Nathan Dean

Reviewer's report:

The authors have responded appropriately to my concerns and suggestions.

I have one minor essential revision, that being to explain why the initial admission rate is so low at 7%. Most ED pneumonia populations demonstrate initial hospitalization rates of about 50%.

I also have one discretionary revision suggestion, that being to also utilize eCURB as a mortality and other adverse outcome predictor. eCURB is an electronically calculable version of CURB-65 that uses the elements as continuous and weighted variables, with improved performance. Jones BE Chest. 2011;140:156-163

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'