Reviewer's report

Title: Burden of pneumonia in elderly in-patients: a classificatory algorithm based on administrative data.

Version: 2 Date: 21 September 2013

Reviewer: Yoshifumi Imamura

Reviewer's report:

General comments.

The manuscript addresses the burden of the three subtypes of pneumonia in elderly people in large region in central Italy. The methodology and the results are impressive and will be useful for other clinicians. Although this manuscript may be suitable for publication in BMC Infectious Diseases, some minor points listed below should be revised.

Minor comments.

Page 2, line 14: Authors describe ‘Comorbidity status was more severe in HCAP…’ Although there were more numbers of comorbidities in HCAP, severity was not evaluated in this study.

Page 7, line 3: According to the figure 1, the incidence of HCAP in people aged 80+ does not seem to be a lower proportion, except people aged 90+ in 2006 and 2007.

Page 15, table 1: Private Nursing home is listed in the part of ‘Type of hospital’ Private Nursing home does not sound like hospital but sound like nursing home. If this is nursing home, the type of pneumonia will be HCAP.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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.