Reviewer's report

Title: Rationale and design of the Costs, Health status and Outcomes in Community-Acquired Pneumonia (CHO-CAP) study in elderly persons hospitalized with CAP

Version: 1 Date: 6 August 2013

Reviewer: Carl Llor

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions:

1. The major concern of the study is how the patients will be recruited. Only those patients participating in the trial who have returned a baseline EQ-5D questionnaire will participate in the present study. The authors expect a return rate of 30%. I would like to know first how you will proceed if you cannot meet the sample size required; secondly, I would like to know if you plan to contact the patients more times in case they do not respond, and third, do you expect a selection bias in this study? In other words, do you think that patients who respond will be expected to be similar to those who won’t answer?, or will you expect a difference in the economic data and evolution of health status between respondents and non-respondents? This aspect is crucial since the results might vary considerably depending on the age of participants and other sociodemographic data, mainly in relation to economic variables, despite the fact that the controls will be matched for some of these variables. The authors should explain all these aspects more in depth.

2. Linked to the previous query I also miss a paragraph on the limitations of this study in the paper.

Discretionary revisions:

The last sentence of the second paragraph of page 6 is not understandable. There is an 'and' as if we were expecting to add something else after it.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.