Reviewer's report

Title: Etiology and Outcome of Severe Community Acquired Pneumonia in Immunocompetent Adults.

Version: 3 Date: 24 January 2013

Reviewer: James D Chalmers

Reviewer's report:

The authors have made further revisions which have improved the manuscript.

In response to point 5 about healthcare associated pneumonia (HCAP), it appears the authors mean hospital acquired pneumonia. They have excluded patients hospitalised in the past four weeks, transferred from another facility and who developed pneumonia after 48 hours of hospitalisation or ICU admission. This is not HCAP. HCAP is defined by the ATS 2005 guidelines based on risk factors for MDR pathogens- hospitalisation in the past 3 months, nursing home residence, home wound care, family member with MDR pathogens etc - the authors have made an error here and should remove references to HCAP.

The information about how the patients were identified is in the reviewers comments/responses but has not bee included in the manuscript- it should be included in my view.

Small point, but please put the organism names in italics e.g under microbial etiology of patients

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

no competing interests