Reviewer's report

**Title:** Risk factors for nasopharyngeal carriage of drug-resistant Streptococcus pneumoniae: data from a nation-wide surveillance study in Greece.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 23 November 2008

**Reviewer:** Elmer Villanueva

**Reviewer's report:**

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the statistical aspects of Manuscript 5601467521295535 “Risk factors for nasopharyngeal carriage of drug-resistant Streptococcus pneumoniae: data from a nation-wide surveillance study in Greece” submitted to BMC Infectious Diseases.

In general, the Authors use conventional, uncontroversial methods of analysis. However, some improvements to the reporting of their results are necessary in order to provide readers with a full understanding of their work.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. In Table 4, the Authors have reported only those factors in the univariable model that reached statistical significance. This is highly inappropriate for two reasons. First, it upholds the tyranny of the p-value. Second, it presupposes that failure to attain statistical significance provides no information about the phenomenon. Third, it attempts to save space when space-saving measures are less relevant in the setting of the BMC’s publication model. The Authors must report all odds ratios, confidence intervals and p-values of all risk factors in the univariable models constructed for each of the four outcomes listed in Table 4. This is non-negotiable.

As mentioned, I trust the Authors to carry out these changes without the need to for further round of peer-review. Once these changes have been made, I am happy to support the acceptance of this manuscript for publication.

Sincerely,

Elmer V Villanueva

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests