Reviewer's report

Title: Burden of acute otitis media in primary care pediatrics in Italy: a secondary data analysis from the Pedianet database

Version: 1 Date: 2 September 2012

Reviewer: Harvey Coates

Reviewer's report:

This paper addresses a database of otitis media seen at primary care clinics in Italy, and is appropriately defined, methodologically sound, with robust data. The diagnostic definitions of otitis media are, as is often the case, variable and some of the cases without fever or otalgia might fall into the diagnosis of the 'red ear'. The authors have mentioned the diagnostic limitations in the absence of pneumatic otoscopy. The discussion and conclusions are appropriate and supported by the data. The limitations including the diagnostic difficulties are discussed. The abstract is relevant and concise and the writing acceptable.

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 have, within the last five years been an adviser for Glaxo SmithKline but have no conflict of interest with the submitted paper.