Reviewer's report

**Title:** Characteristics of highly impaired children with severe chronic pain: A 5-year retrospective study on 2249 pediatric pain patients

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 2 May 2012

**Reviewer:** Leora Kuttner

**Reviewer's report:**

1. The revised manuscript adequately and successfully addresses my concerns and the concerns raised by Reviewer 1. They have provided added material, referred to the referenced literature and shown that the data in this manuscript is a unique contribution to the literature. Major Compulsory Revisions

2. Specific to the other reviewer’s statement of the “lack of importance of this study”: The authors revisions convincingly demonstrate that the previous literature is epidemiologically derived, and not derived from an in-patient treatment unit, as is the current study. The earlier work thus does not necessarily sample children in chronic pain many who do not attend school-- the sample site for these epidemiological studies.

3. The Authors have done a good job in integrating these arguments within the Background, as requested

4. The data from the current manuscript is a valuable contribution to our understanding of this difficult to treat population. There are very few pediatric in-patient treatment centres, and data of this integrity is a substantial contribution to our understanding of pediatric pain. Minor Essential Revisions

5. All data concerns in the figures were fully addressed

**Level of interest:** An article of importance 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:**

No competing interests