Reviewer's report

Title: Drug use profile in outpatient children and adolescents in different Italian regions

Version: 2 Date: 17 October 2012

Reviewer: imti choonara

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions
This is a pharmacoepidemiological study of the use of medicines by children and adolescents within three different regions in Italy. The topic is an important one especially in relation to rational prescribing of medicines. The authors have previously published several papers in this area. My main concerns are that the findings are similar to what the authors have already reported. They have previously published data from these three regions in relation to antibiotic prescriptions (in conjunction with five other regions) [Reference 17]. As antibiotics are the most frequently prescribed medicines in the community, it is not surprising that there is similar variation in relation to the overall prevalence of drugs prescribed. Similarly, the authors have previously described large variations in prescribing within the Lombardy region which is one of the regions included in this study [Reference 8].

I would therefore suggest that the authors dramatically shorten their paper highlighting what this study adds to their previous publications.

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'