Reviewer's report

Title: Prioritising neonatal medicines research: UK Medicines for Children Research Network scoping survey

Version: 2 Date: 11 June 2009

Reviewer: ian wong

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for asking me to review this interesting paper. This is a very useful and interesting paper for paediatric professionals and researchers. The methodology is simple but effective. I have given some suggestions to improve the paper.

Discretionary Revisions:
The authors should consider adding the following information to the background to strengthen the rational of the study:

1) Prioritisation of research needs in medicines for children should take two important assessments into consideration: public health assessment comprising the severity and prevalence of disease and the availability of treatment alternatives (EMEA 2006); and assessment of use. This may comprise the frequency or volume of use and the licensing/ labelling status of medicines for children (Ackers et al 2007, Sturkenboom et al 2008). The present study is providing much important information in medicines for neonates.


Results:

Discretionary Revisions:

2) The authors should provide more detail and compare the characteristics of responding and non-responding neonatal units as to whether there are any significant differences.

Minor Essential Revisions:

3) Figure 1 has unexplained aberrations.

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:
I am the chair of the Pharmacy and Pharmacology Clinical Study Group of the Medicines for Children Research Network.