Author’s response to reviews

Title: Can we use the pharmacy data to estimate the prevalence of chronic conditions? An attempt to compare different information sources

Authors:

Francesco Chini (chini@asplazio.it)
Patrizio Pezzotti (pezzotti@asplazio.it)
Letizia Orzella (orzella@asplazio.it)
Piero Borgia (borgia@asplazio.it)
Gabriella Guasticchi (guasticchi@asplazio.it)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Rome, February 21, 2011
Dear Editor,

We would like to submit the original manuscript entitled: “Can we use pharmacy data to estimate the prevalence of chronic conditions? An attempt to compare different information sources” for your consideration for publication in BMC Public Health.

The authors are: Francesco Chini, Patrizio Pezzotti, Letizia Orzella, Piero Borgia and Gabriella Guasticchi.

This study reports prevalence estimates of some chronic conditions using the pharmacy data, in Lazio region of central Italy that includes Rome. The prevalence estimates were comparable and in agreement with those obtained by using other health databases and with those reported in the survey performed by the Italian Bureau of Census (ISTAT).

Please note that:
• All authors declare that there are no competing interests.
• All of the authors listed concur with the content of this paper and its submission to your journal. The final version of the manuscript has been read and approved by all authors.
• Neither the article, nor any part of it, is under consideration for publication in any journal.
• The study design did not require an approval by an Ethical Committee. The Agency for Public health is the mandatory collector of all the data used in this paper.
On behalf of the authors
Francesco Chini