Author's response to reviews

Title: Chronic disease prevalence from Italian administrative databases in the VALORE project: a validation through comparison of population estimates with general practice databases and national survey

Authors:

Rosa Gini (rosa.gini@ars.toscana.it)
Paolo Francesconi (paolo.francesconi@ars.toscana.it)
Giampiero Mazzaglia (mazzaglia.giampiero@simg.it)
Iacopo Cricelli (iacopo.cricelli@genomedics.it)
Alessandro Pasqua (alessandro.pasqua@genomedics.it)
Pietro Gallina (pietro.gallina@sanita.padova.it)
Salvatore Brugaletta (salvatorebrugaletta@virgilio.it)
Daniele Donato (daniele.donato@salute.padova.it)
Andrea Donatini (adonatini@regione.emilia-romagna.it)
Alessandro Marini (alessandro.marini@sanita.marche.it)
Carlo Zocchetti (carlo_zocchetti@regione.lombardia.it)
Claudio Cricelli (cricelli@dada.it)
Gianfranco Damiani (gdamiani@rm.unicatt.it)
Mariadonata Bellentani (bellentani@agenas.it)
Miriam CJM Sturkenboom (m.sturkenboom@erasusmc.nl)
Martijn J Schuemie (m.schuemie@erasusmc.nl)

Version: 8 Date: 24 November 2012

Author's response to reviews:

-) In the abstract, the extra "A" in the first word should be removed.
Done

-) On page 8, the first time that "interquartile" is used, it should be followed by the abbreviation "IQ", because the authors use this abbreviation in subsequent parts of the Results section. As well, this abbreviation should be added to the list of abbreviations on pages 11-12 of the manuscript.
Done

-) In the list of abbreviations, ATC should be defined as Anatomic, Therapeutic, Chemical, because this is the correct definition of the abbreviation.
Done

-) The authors should review the manuscript for spelling mistakes and
grammatical errors.

We carefully revised the text for misprints and grammatical errors, and reformulated some sentences that sounded unclear. We hope the language is acceptable now.

- ) For example, on page 15, the word "administrative" is misspelled in the title of Figure 1.

Done

- ) The authors should review the Results section and the abstract to ensure that all numeric values of prevalence are accompanied by the percentage symbol, as appropriate.

Done

- ) The sentence in the Conclusions section "Ascertainment of COPD from administrative sources has been shown to be cumbersome in other studies" might be rephrased. "Cumbersome" does not seem to be an appropriate choice of words; "challenging" or "difficult" may more accurately describe the problem of distinguishing COPD from other forms of chronic respiratory disease in population-based data.

Done (added new reference as well)

- ) In Figure 3, I would recommend removing the bar for the 96+ population, given that results are only available from administrative data for this age group. The authors have noted this in the text of the manuscript.

Done