Reviewer’s report

Title: Trends in incidence and costs of injuries to the shoulder, arm and wrist in The Netherlands between 1986 and 2008

Version: 5 Date: 19 February 2013

Reviewer: Douglas Curran-Everett

Reviewer’s report:

General Comment

In general I am satisfied with the statistical analyses and conclusions in this paper. I do not share the concerns of Reviewer 1 (Leslie) about direct standardization. Based on my reading of the comment and the manuscript, I interpret the issue to be one of communication. Which means, of course, that the authors need to clarify the summary of their approach.

Minor Essential Revision

1. As I understand it, the authors calculated ---from Dutch population estimates--- the average number of people in each of the 5-yr age classes for each year of the study: 1986-2010. This number was the standard (reference) population. If this correct, the authors need to clarify that they did this.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests'.