Reviewer’s report

Title: The Second Study of Infectious Intestinal Disease (IID2): Increased rates of recurrent diarrhoea in individuals aged 65 years and above

Version: 1 Date: 11 April 2013

Reviewer: Martyn Kirk

Reviewer’s report:

GENERAL COMMENTS: This is a well-written and interesting manuscript. I think that it adds highly relevant knowledge to our understanding of gastroenteritis in people in the community. The analysis is appropriate and well-thought out, and the interpretation is not over-stated.

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS: None

MINOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS:
1. It is only a minor point, but I would imagine that the authors did not use Stata version 12.0 to conduct the analyses, but more like version 12.1.
2. I am sure the case definition of gastroenteritis in the study has been validated, but it is a little vague in terms of symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting. I would be keen to see what happens to the predictors of recurrent episodes if a stricter case definition was used. I presume that this is possible given the extensive nature of the study.

DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS:
1. It seems like the reasons for the higher rate of recurrent episodes in older people is just a list of possibilities. Did the IID2 study collect data on antibiotic usage, chronic disease, etc. that could inform this finding?
2. I would like to see some public health interpretation of the findings of this study. What do these results mean for infectious intestinal disease prevention?

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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