Reviewer’s report

Title: Health burden and economic impact of measles-related hospitalizations in Italy in 2002-2003.

Version: 1 Date: 20 October 2006

Reviewer: Angel Gil

Reviewer’s report:

When assessing the work, please consider the following points:

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?
   Yes.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?
   The methods are well described.

Specific comments

- Add a reference for the ISTAT (page 6) (Minor Revisions)

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?

a.. I consider of great relevance to compare the demographic and clinical characteristics of those with and without measles as main discharge diagnosis, and to discuss the results of these comparisons. (Major Compulsory Revisions)

a.. I think that Table 4 is unnecessary and as the authors point out data for some regions are possibly little representative due to the small sample size. Perhaps it would be more interesting to provide results only by geographical areas (Major Compulsory Revisions)

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   Yes

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?

a.. I consider necessary more information about the infant vaccination policy in Italy, and author’s public health recommendations in order to increase infant vaccination coverages. (Major Compulsory Revisions)
b.. Do all the Italian hospitals provide discharge data to the Ministry of Health? Provide a reference(Minor Revisions)
6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
Yes

Specific comments
· Change 8,800,0000.00 by 8.8 millions. (Minor Revisions)

7. Is the writing acceptable?
Yes

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests