Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 24 October 2006

Reviewer: Hester E de Melker

Reviewer's report:

General

The topic of the paper as given in the introduction and title is the costs related to measles epidemic in 2002-2003. The epidemic has been described previously, although in that study only part of the hospital admission data seemed to be included.
The added value of this study could be the more complete information with regard to total number of hospital admissions and characteristics of these admissions.
In the present manuscript the authors address in rather detail the costs of measles. The paper could add more when the focus would not only be the costs but in a broader sense the disease burden (as measured from hospital admissions in particular) of the measles epidemic with the associated costs.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

The authors should make clear the added value of the present study compared to previously information on the measles epidemic. As stated above this could potentially be the more extensive description of clinical information on measles hospital admissions and associated costs.
Furthermore, too much detail is given in the text; information should be given in a more concise and systematic manner. For example a lot of information could be presented in a few tables or sometimes figures.
The results also with regard to costs should be discussed in view of the available other literature in the discussion section.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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 limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests