Reviewer's report

Title: The New Zealand Asthma and Allergy Cohort Study (NZA2CS): Assembly, Demographics and Investigations

Version: 1 Date: 14 October 2006

Reviewer: Guy Marks

Reviewer's report:

General

This report describes the methodology for a birth cohort study investigating the genetic and environmental risk factors for asthma and allergic disease. No findings are presented but it is a generally well written and comprehensive description of the recruitment procedures and data collection methodology. I have a few specific questions.

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

1. Were any exclusion criteria implemented in the peri-natal period (for example, non-singleton pregnancies, premature delivery, severe neonatal illness)?
2. What is the criterion for a positive skin prick test at the 6 year assessment?

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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)

3. Please provide more information about how the daily calendar was used to assess diet. Also, further details about infant feeding data collected, and how it was classified, would be valuable.

What next?: Accept after minor essential 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 I have no competing interests.