Reviewer’s report

Title: Adherence with tobramycin inhaled solution and health care utilization

Version: 1 Date: 21 September 2010

Reviewer: Thomas Lahiri

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have addressed an important question regarding adherence in the CF population. The data clearly demonstrate a health care utilization benefit for those patients with increased cycles of TSI used, with fewer hospitalizations.

The methodology, data analysis and limitations of the study are well explained.

Major and Minor Essential Revisions: none

Discretionary Revisions: The prescription of TSI is indicated for patients with chronic P.aeruginosa infection and an FEV1 between 25-75% predicted. Several comments are made regarding physician prescribing patterns within the U.S. Some comment on the use of TSI within or outside of the indicated range of lung function would be helpful in the broader analysis. The degree of compromised lung function of individuals with CF also represents a potential significant comorbidity in this population. Some comment on the health of the studied population (or the lack of that data) would be helpful in the interpretation of the data.

The authors also identified two other major comorbidities: P.aeruginosa infection and failure to thrive/growth failure. The rate of failure to thrive (4.4%) reported in this trial seems extremely low compared to CFF registry data. Do the authors have any comment regarding this?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.