Reviewer's report

Title: Comparison of resource use by COPD patients on inhaled therapies with long-acting bronchodilators: a database study

Version: 3 Date: 22 August 2011

Reviewer: CLAUDIO MICHELETTO

Reviewer's report:

The study is very interesting, use retrospective data to identify matched cohorts of patients.

The conclusions indicates that the management with laba, lama and ics may have higher treatment costs without an offset in their other COPD-related costs, but the limits regards the appropriateness of the therapy, because non functional data are reported.

According the GOLD guideliness, LABA+LAMA+ICC are considered when FEV1 is < 50 % or/with frequent exacerbation. We don't know if this group is a real severe COPD or if the drug prescription is guided only by a clinical point of view.

dr. Claudio Micheletto

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.