Reviewer's report

Title: Clinical, Economic, and Humanistic Burden of Asthma in Canada: A Systematic Review

Version: 3 Date: 13 May 2013

Reviewer: Francis Gilchrist

Reviewer's report:

The objective of this study was to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the published literature that reports on the clinical, economic, and humanistic burden of asthma in Canada. The authors have undertaken a detailed review of the relevant literature using good methodology and produced a very detailed report which will be of interest to clinicians in this field.

The main issue with this article is the length of the results section. I know it is difficult to summarise such a large volume of literature but I think that its current length will put people off reading it. Currently there is too much written information about each article. For each section the authors should summarise the main findings and then refer the reader to the relevant table if they require further information.

There is also a lack of clarity in paragraphs 1&2 of the results section. In both paragraphs they are explaining how articles were excluded but they use completely different formats. They should stick to the same format and use numbers of articles and not percentages (used once in paragraph 1). In paragraph 1 there is also information missing on how the remaining 88 articles were excluded.

In summary this is a good quality review that does add the field. I think that the results section needs to be edited / re-written to maximise the number of people that will read the article and therefore take on board it important content.

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