Reviewer's report

Title: Pattern of Respiratory Diseases in Children Presenting to the Pediatric Emergency Unit of the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Enugu: A Case Series Report

Version: 3 Date: 5 February 2014

Reviewer: Adeola OROGADE

Reviewer's report:

METHODS:
Paragraph 1: ‘carders’ should read cadre
Paragraph 2: ‘Inclusion criteria on the clinician’s diagnoses of the respective disease based on clinical features and available laboratory results’ Meaning unclear; sentence needs recasting
Paragraph 3: What informed the choice of length of hospital stay to < 5 days and >5 days?
Paragraph 4: Where was ANOVA used in the analysis?

RESULTS:
Duration of admission (length of hospital stay) was earlier categorized as <5 days and >5 days. How were the results in this paragraph e.g mean duration of admission of 2 days and no of children admitted for more than 4 days computed?

Unspecified socio-economic group formed one third (29.4%) of the records. With such a large group of unknown income, how then was socio-economic factor found to be a determinant of repeated admissions?

What test statistic has been reported as ‘B= 1.22 and -1.68’?

Admission outcome What was the final outcome of the children ‘transferred into inpatient wards’?

DISCUSSION:
Paragraph 3: ‘Asthma and acute chest syndrome of sickle cell disease constitute the topmost reasons for admission in our review’ How does this statement compare with results presented in Table 2?

Paragraph 6: ‘The proportion though small’ what does this refer to? Note that proportion of children with kerosene poisoning was 3.5% of non communicable as compared to Acute chest syndrome (1.8%) in the same group

CONCLUSIONS
‘…despite the best efforts’ not clear. Explain
‘It thus requires more effort among all concerned to reduce and should be directed at improvement in the intervention methods or more commitment by the stakeholders in implementation of the existing methods’ This sentence is not clear and does not have any link with either the study objective, methodology nor results

‘A comprehensive study in the community on the epidemiological factors associated with morbidity and mortality’ How is this related to the findings of this study? Where the children all from the same community?

TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 4
This needs to have some statistical test applied to determine the significance or otherwise of the results.

Table 5
Title not appropriate for data presented

Figure 1
Does not add further information than already depicted in table 4 and the prose and should be deleted.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests