Reviewer's report

Title: Respiratory virus in immunocompetent community-acquired pneumonia: is it real pathogen or a bystander? Comparing to influenza like illness and volunteer controls

Version: 2 Date: 4 June 2014

Reviewer: Ger Rijkers

Reviewer's report:

I had serious concerns about the apparent lack of bacterial diagnostics in this patient cohort (and I saw that all other reviewers has this same comment). From the revised manuscript it appears that only from a limited subset of patients a sputum culture was performed, and no further bacteriology was performed. This means that we now have a patient population who has little or no bacteriology, yet they are all treated with antibiotics. We have extensive virological data, but only a limited number of patients was treated with antiviral medication. This severely limits the conclusions which could be drawn from this study.

I will leave it up to the editors whether or not this paper would qualify for publication.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests