Reviewer's report

Title: A Cross-sectional Study of the Identification of Prevalent Asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease among Initiators of Long-Acting beta-Agonists in Health Insurance Claims Data

Version: 2 Date: 12 October 2013

Reviewer: Lucie Blais

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Most of the comments were addressed correctly; however the following 3 comments need to be addressed again:

1. The authors should discuss the impact of such low NPV (61.5%) on future studies that will be based on asthma and COPD diagnoses recorded in the database under study.

2. The argument made by the authors for not using regression models to identify the 3 covariates with the largest absolute difference in prevalence is not scientifically valid. Regression models are routinely used in medical research. So, either provide a valid argument or present the results of a regression analysis.

3. The statement on the sensitivity of the claims data is too speculative without any data and should be removed.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interest