Reviewer's report

Title: Nonattendance in Pediatric Pulmonary Clinics: An Ambulatory Survey

Version: 1 Date: 18 September 2008

Reviewer: Mickael Bech

Reviewer's report:

This study investigates the determinants associated with non-attendance. The study is well conducted and the manuscripts provide a clear and understandable description of the study and its’ results.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. I would like the manuscript to state a more explicit purpose. As it is now, the study is a descriptive study with no clear purpose

2. A clearly and explicitly stated purpose would also facilitate more clear statements on the policy implications of the study which is missing.

3. The statistical analysis: The logistics regression could be improved by including month (or periods in a year) as an additional determinant.

4. The regression would also benefit from including the age groups as several categorical variables as the while Figure 1 indicates that there are differences across age groups. One policy implication would be to target interventions to reduce non-attendance to specific age groups, if age is a significant determinant

5. The regression would also benefit from more explicitly including the peak around 3-4 pm. (as indicated in figure 2) as a separate category. Again this may facilitate more explicit policy statements concerning production planning.

6. The discussion of the results with regards to Bedouins seems rather prejudice and do not discuss whether some of the non-attendance is caused by the providers behaviour, e.g. language or attitudinal barriers.

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:

No competing interests