Reviewer's report

Title: Economic Burden of Asthma: A Systematic Review

Version: 4 Date: 16 December 2008

Reviewer: Sallie Pearson

Reviewer's report:

This study addresses the important issue of the direct, indirect and overall costs associated with managing asthma. I endorse the paper's publication. It is clearly written and the aims methods and results are articulated clearly.

However, I do have a number of specific points relating to the manuscript.

*I think it is always nice to present a figure detailing the process by which the systematic review was conducted - this is pretty much standard practice these days.*

* The paper is very lengthy (in some ways not surprising due to the nature of the content) but I would recommend the authors try to reduce its length - especially the results which are a little difficult to digest because of the large volume of information.

* I think it would also be wise to have a table of some sort in the results section that attempts to summarise some of the information. For example, the types of costs studies have identified and then some key points relating to each plus maybe a list of the studies addressing that particular issue. With a table such as this it will allow the reader to get a basic understanding of the overall picture before navigating through the lengthy text.

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.