Reviewer’s report

Title: Respiratory physiotherapy and incidence of pulmonary complications in off-pump coronary artery bypass graft surgery: an observational follow-up study

Version: 2 Date: 24 May 2009

Reviewer: Heather M Arthur

Reviewer’s report:

Although the authors have responded to most of the questions raised in the previous review, I remain dissatisfied with aspects of the question and the methods. Justification for the importance of this study in "off pump" CABG patients (other than it has not been reported before) is necessary. This group of patients is probably lower risk than other CABG patients and the uniqueness of the question in this study is not clear. My concern about compliance was also related to clearly documenting the compliance of the physical therapists in providing the intervention. We are simply asked to take the authors’ word on this. Finally, the sample size justification needs a better explanation, describing the formula or methods used to arrive at the sample size.

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

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

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.