Author's response to reviews

Title: Patterns of Use, Dosing, and Economic Impact of Biologic Agent Use in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis: A Retrospective Cohort Study

Authors:

Thomas D Gilbert Jr (thomas.gilbert@ipsen.com)
Daniel Smith (dsmith@pharmetrics.com)
Daniel A Ollendorf (dollendorf@pharmetrics.com)

Version: Date: 26 July 2004

Author’s response to reviews:

July 26, 2004

Dear Sir/Madam:

We would like to re-submit our manuscript entitled "Patterns of Use, Dosing, and Economic Impact of Biologic Agent Use in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis: A Retrospective Cohort Study" for consideration for publication in BMC Health Services Research. We believe the potential for large dose increases with expensive biologic agents represents a phenomenon of large economic import for payers, providers, and regulatory authorities.

The following additions/changes were made to the manuscript:

* The title was changed to include the type of study
* The email addresses were reformatted to fit the manuscript's submission needs
* 'Conclusion' was added as it was missing from the initial version
* A competing interest declaration was also added as it was required. Also in this section was added the Acknowledgements and since it seemed repetitive, we removed the acknowledgement from the latter section.
* Authors Contribution section was added.
* Finally the References section was modidfied to fit the manuscript's needs.

Our manuscript has not been published previously, and is also not currently under consideration for publication in any other medical-scientific journal. Portions of this study were displayed as a poster presentation at the 5th Annual European Congress of the International Society of Pharcacoenomics and Outcomes Research, Barcelona, Spain, November 2003.

Corresponding author information is as follows:

Daniel A. Ollendorf, M.P.H.
Vice President, Analytic & Consulting Services
PharMetrics, Inc.
311 Arsenal Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: (617) 393-8322
Fax: (617) 972-8587
E-mail: dollendorf@pharmetrics.com

All authors are currently employed by PharMetrics, Inc., with the exception of Thomas Gilbert, who was employed by PharMetrics at the time these analyses were conducted. E-mail addresses of all relevant authors as well as contact information for suggested reviewers are being provided in the relevant sections.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns as the manuscript moves through your review process.

Kind regards,
Dan Ollendorf
Cc: T. Gilbert, Jr., D. Smith