Reviewer’s report

Title: Time series analysis of the relationship of readily available diarrheal remedy over-the-counter drug sales data and gastrointestinal disease in the San Francisco Bay Area

Version: 1 Date: 14 May 2010

Reviewer: Michael Stoto

Reviewer’s report:

The authors address a problem that is relevant to public health practice, and clearly define a related research question, use appropriate data and statistical methods, and draw on the existing literature as appropriate. Their conclusions are clearly supported by the analysis, and the limitations are clearly stated.

With one exception, the statistical methods are clearly described. The exception is the simulation of “random alerts” (pp. 4-5) which is not described.

The only other comment that I have is that the description of the ARIMA models that were fit (now on p. 4) belongs in the Results section.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.