Reviewer’s report

Title: Developing model-based algorithms to identify screening colonoscopies using administrative health databases

Version: 2 Date: 7 March 2013

Reviewer: Carlo Senore

Reviewer’s report:

The paper presents an interesting approach to the analysis of administrative data, aimed to extract useful information for the purposes of evaluation studies. Some aspects related to the procedures adopted in the data collection should be clarified.

Major compulsory revisions

Methods

1. Even if using a convenience sample in the development phase of predictive algorithms may be appropriate, the authors should give some additional information on the procedures adopted to recruit patients in the study.

   For example: how many patients were seen in the participating institutions during the study period? How many endoscopy units were involved? How many patients refused interview?

2. How could the endoscopist identify / derive the indication for the colonoscopy? Using information indicated on the medical prescription? By directly collecting patient's history? Other?

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no conflict of interest