Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of chronic diseases and morbidity in primary health care in central Greece: An epidemiological study

Version: 1 Date: 31 May 2010

Reviewer: Gunter Laux

Reviewer's report:

The authors report from an epidemiologic study performed in Thessaly, central Greece.

The study can be classified as a basic contribution on a presumably long way to a national epidemiologic register. Therefore, the study is indeed of interest within the given context.

However, there are several issues that have to be addressed, before the publication can be accepted:

Major Compulsory Revisions (MCR):

MCR1: The scientific English has to be improved. There are many nonconforming phrases and spelling mistakes. A native English speaker could help here.

MCR2: Confidence intervals should be calculated for the estimations (Table 3 and 4). These should be adapted to your cluster design (see MCR3).

MCR3: You have a design with 4 clusters and many patients per cluster. Therefore, you can expect a so called "design effect" or "cluster effect" that increases sampling error estimations and confidence intervals. There are several statistical packages (e.g. "SAS" or "R") that can account for this design to obtain reliable estimations. A local statistician could help here.

Minor Essential Revisions (MER):

MER1: The demographics of the study population should be compared to the Greek population (about 12 million individuals) relating to age and gender.

MER2: You should calculate and show SDs for your results, where appropriate (see MCR3).

MER3: Potential selection biases (e.g. caused by voluntary participation) should be discussed.

Discretionary Revisions (DR):
DR1: It would be interesting to obtain a short overview regarding the Greek health care system and the role of the GP.

DR2: Codings of ICPC-K76 was used to identify "Coronary Heart Disease". This could be amended by ICPC-K74 and -K75.

DR3: I visited "Larisa" about 20 years ago. I suppose, the city was spelled with 1 "s" only.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

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

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests