Reviewer's report

Title: Long-term survival and healthcare utilization outcomes attributable to sepsis and pneumonia

Version: 1 Date: 16 October 2012

Reviewer: Klaus Kaier

Reviewer's report:

Dear Dr Halton,

I think this is a nice article that basically addresses two different questions: (1) what is the long run survival of patients that were discharged after they were cured from hospital specific adverse events such as sepsis or pneumonia. In a second analysis, the authors apply a multivariate econometric analysis in order to determine the long run impact of the mentioned adverse events of healthcare utilization. The methodology of the multivariate econometric model seems to be straight forward, however, I have the impression that the statistically interested reader (as well as myself) would benefit from more details about the regression specification meaning much of the details provided by supplement 2 should appear in the original manuscript. On page 9, please provide some details about the ‘test of over-dispersion’; what tests were run, what are the results and how did you interpret them?

The survival analysis, however, should be checked by a formal statistical as I am unable to assess the quality of the methodology used in this part of the study. Therefore, I recommend forwarding the manuscript to a statistician, in order to check the quality of the methodology applied in the survival analysis.

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.