Reviewer’s report

Title: A Danish population-based cohort study of newly diagnosed asthmatic children’s care pathway - adherence to guidelines

Version: 1 Date: 11 March 2008

Reviewer: Robert L Cowie

Reviewer’s report:

BMC Danish Asthma adherence

A cohort study of 36,940 children with asthma based upon the provision of an asthma medication for the first time between 1999 and 2004. These subjects were then assessed for an assessment by spirometry, peak flow or reversibility test in the 6 months before their first prescription, for a follow up visit in the first 6 months after their first prescription and for a follow-up visit in the second 6 months after their first prescription. Severity of their asthma was determined by the number of prescriptions which they filled/year.

They were also divided according to whether their care was by GP only, by specialist only, by hospital-based specialist or by GP and specialist.

The results were assessed in relation to gender, age, parental status, education and income, the severity of their illness and the doctor providing their care.

Overall the adherence with the guidelines assessed as indicated was poor and worse with younger children, milder disease, lower socioeconomic status, single parents and when only GPs participated in their care.

This is an interesting and important study. The major defect might relate to the definition of severity which may well, instead, be an indicator of adherence. In any event, those who collected more medication appeared to be more likely to have initial assessment and to attend for follow-up.

The proposed follow-up with assessment of risk associated with incomplete adherence with the guidelines would be most interesting.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests