Reviewer’s report

Title: Evaluation of a web-based intervention to reduce antibiotic prescribing in six European countries; quantitative process analysis of the GRACE/INTRO randomised controlled trial.

Version: 1 Date: 15 August 2013

Reviewer: Edward Velasco

Reviewer’s report:

The paper provides an innovative methodology and shows a new use of tools to assess a relatively commonplace issue in the field. The methods appropriate and well described, and all statistics seem to be thoughtfully and thoroughly presented.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The title should and indeed many of the references within the manuscript should refer specifically to prescribing for LRTI or "chesty cough," which would be more accurate.

2. The epidemiology in the introduction refers to good papers, but a few more references about the public health impact in the participating countries could be important. For example, one wonders what is different between prescribing in in England and Poland (as surely there might be large differences in GP and patient perception)?

3. The authors should use caution to recommend that their results indicate a "roll out" for other European countries. More discussion should reflect upon the differences in the participating countries, which could then indicate that there might be regional similarities (i.e. some research has shown that southern EU and northern EU countries tend to have differential behaviours and outcomes). Representative national studies in Germany, for example, have found that patient education isn't as important as continuing medical education for MDs about specific diagnoses - and readers may well wonder about the generalizability of the booklet to other countries.

4. The LifeGuide software, STAR and COMMON SENSE models are referenced, but a sentence or two more on each could help to better orient the reader with these.

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

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.