Reviewer's report

Title: Prescription of antibiotics and anxiolytics/hypnotics to asthma patients in general practice: A cross-sectional study based on French and Italian prescribing data.

Version: 2 Date: 15 October 2014

Reviewer: iain small

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revision
1). In lines 151-156 the authors give baseline levels for antibiotic and anxiolytic prescribing in the two countries. This information is fundamental to the premise of the paper, i.e., that people with asthma are over treated with such drugs. In my view, this data needs to be presented (with statistical analysis), before the comparison between the behaviour in the two countries, which, while interesting, is not the authors primary point of interest. If there is no statistical difference between the normal age adjusted population levels of these drugs and the asthma population then the paper has limited value other than as an interesting piece about how doctors behave in two countries.

Minor essential revision.
1) Line 176. How can you conclude from this data base study that the reason for gender difference is asthma control. there are a range of issues (both patient and prescriber) that might influence this, as you very elegantly describe in your section on anxiolytics.

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 declare that I have no Competing interests