Reviewer's report

Title: Patient characteristics associated with treatment initiation among paediatric patients with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder symptoms in a naturalistic setting in Central Europe and East Asia

Version: 3  Date: 18 August 2014

Reviewer: Fiona Mensah

Reviewer's report:

Thank you to the authors for their thorough consideration of my comments

Major Compulsory Revisions

My recommendation that remains outstanding is in regard to table 3. It is important that a common set of the focal factors considered in the model are presented rather than solely those that meet statistical significance. Particularly as these findings are presented by region and at the moment there is no way to determine comparability between the regions for many of the factors considered. If there are factors which may a priori be specified as control factors rather than the focus of the analysis then these may be footnoted.

Presentation as a landscape table including a common set of factor definitions and odds ratio, confidence interval and p value for All, and each of the regions as columns would be a feasible and recommended presentation.

In these analyses it is important to also present the p value for the test of interaction illustrating whether there is statistical evidence that the odds ratios differ within regions so that these effects may be identified rather than those that could be explained by random variability in the estimates between regions. These analyses should also be commented on in the text where there is discussion of regional differences in the factors associated with treatment initiation.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests