Reviewer’s report

Title: The impact of asthma, chronic bronchitis and allergic rhinitis on all-cause hospitalizations and limitations in daily activities. A comparative study in adults.

Version: 2
Date: 21 October 2014
Reviewer: Nikolai Stenfors

Reviewer’s report:

* Major Compulsory Revisions
1. methods

1. Which were the data sources for the outcome variables (use of hospital services, days with reduced activities, disease-related contribution, breathing related problems)?

2. When was outcome variables collected, in relation to the "predictor" variables? Prior or after the GEIRD-questionnaire?

3. Outcome variables were registered "past three months". In relation to what?

2. discussion

1. Study limitations: The authors objectives were to "evaluate the impact of asthma, chronic bronchitis and allergic rhinitis on all-cause hospitalizations and limitations in daily activities in adults". The authors choose a questionnaire-based method to answer the study question. What are the pros/cons of choosing a questionnaire-based definition of asthma instead of a medical-record-based definition?

2. Study limitations: What are limitation of not having co-morbidities (ie hypertension, diabetes, and so on) as a confounding variable?

3. figures

1. Does "risk of hospitalisation" on y-axis mean "proportion of subjects with hospitalisation during a 3 month period"? Or is it an annual risk?

2. Figure 3: What is the study definition of "breathing problems"?

* Minor Essential Revisions
- None

* Discretionary Revisions
1. title

1. Perhaps include a short description of the study design/methods in the title?
2. tables

1. avoid using horizontal lines in tables

**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'