Reviewer’s report

Title: Validity of gout diagnosis in Swedish primary and secondary care

Version: 4 Date: 19 February 2015

Reviewer: Changfu Kuo

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions:
1. The authors did not mention the timing of information collected for determination of gout status. If the authors used the entire medical records to judge whether patients fulfilled classification criteria then the PPV would be overestimated.

2. Gout is characterised by repetitive acute attacks. In the primary care group, only 1/3 of patients have two diagnoses and 10% have 3 diagnoses. This is a bit strange, please comment on this point.

3. I assume the two PC centres are in the catchment area of the specialised centres. Some patients would have been referred by these two PC centres. In Rheumatology group, did you include the history of patients recorded in the PC centres?

4. I thought the Rheumatology department should have a better PPV but it’s not. I suspect the authors did not include medical history recorded in PCs.

5. Please report confidence intervals for PPV.

6. In Table 4, missing values should be included in denominators.

Minor
1. Page 10, line 213 Netherland criteria --> Netherland criteria

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interest.