Reviewer's report

**Title:** Pre-hospital ECG for acute coronary syndrome in urban India: A cost-effectiveness analysis

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 30 September 2009

**Reviewer:** Isabelle Durand-Zaleski

**Reviewer's report:**

This article used a well designed and relevant Markov model to address the issue of enabling GPs in India to perform ECG for suspected acute coronary syndrome.

I have no particular comment regarding the design and the assumptions of the model; the unit costs are exceptionally low compared to cost in western countries so perhaps a brief reminder of the per capita GDP in India, placed in the methods section instead of the discussion would help. The baseline values and the assumptions in the sensitivity analysis seem correct. The authors have chosen a deterministic instead of probabilistic sensitivity analysis and should justify this choice.

My major comments concerns policy implications. I think it would be of great interest for readers outside India to understand the stakes and the barriers to having GPs perform ECGs and refer patients to the hospital.

1) What would be the additional cost incurred (and by whom) to provide additional equipment and training?

2) What is the position of the association of cardiologists?

3) The tornado diagram shows that it would be cost saving to have GPs perform ECGs in areas or populations where the prevalence is high. While this makes a lot of sense medically, what is the feasibility of such a policy

In short, the discussion should focus on the politics of having prehospital ECG performed by GPs and I should convince the reader that the results of this study can indeed result in changes in referral practice.

**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 received honorarium and research grants from Sanofi-Aventis which is the sponsor of this study.