Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Determining initial and follow-up costs of cardiovascular events in a US managed care population

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 4 June 2010

**Reviewer:** Sue Jowett

**Reviewer’s report:**

Overall I found this to be a generally well-written paper providing important information on CV costs in a US context.

**Major compulsory revisions**

None

**Minor essential revisions**

None

**Discretionary revisions**

1) The background seem to be quite short - you state there is a lack of up to date cost estimates in the literature but perhaps a little more detail could be included here.

2) In the first paragraph of the background you state that "most health economics cost analyses broadly consider CV disease rather than specific CV events". Again, a little more detail with perhaps reference to studies may be useful here.

3) Within the first paragraph of the Data sub-section of the Methods section, there are lists of ICD-9 codes. I think these may be easier for readers to digest if they are in a table rather than in the main text.

4) In the sub-section Patient selection, (and this may be due to my lack of indepth knowledge of the US health care system as I am UK based) one of the excluded groups is patients “>= 65 whose insurance cover was not Medicare Risk”. Obviously in terms of age this is a key group, but in terms of their insurance coverage, is this a very small group of patients? If not, this could be quite an important group – and are they different in any way i.e. be a sub-group at even greater risk of CV events?

**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