Reviewer's report

Title: Using Confidence Intervals to Assess Regression to the Mean Effects in Health Care Initiatives

Version: 3 Date: 17 August 2013

Reviewer: Bert Vrijhoef

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript clearly outlines the concept of RTM and clearly illustrates how RTM can affect the results and conclusion of a study in health care.

Notwithstanding the manuscript is well written, it can be improved by addressing two points/ minor essential recommendation :

1. relevance of RTM in health care decision making. In the Introduction -2nd paragraph- the author briefly mentions the implications of RTM in medical interventions followed by the observation that RTM is rarely addressed in health care decision making. The manuscript would benefit by more extensively describing its scientific relevance and its relevance for health care. For example: how big is the problem of RTM in health care and, given it is more rarely addressed in health care, why is this the case? Moreover, has it become a more relevant problem in the light of the increasing strategies to address subgroups of patient populations with high health care utilization?

Also, the relevance of this study should be more clearly mentioned in the Abstract.

2. results and its discussion should be more clearly distinguished. For example, the 2nd and 4th paragraph of Results are interpretations of the results and therefore should not be in Results but in the Discussion section.

A minor detail: author uses 'we' in several occasions where there is only one author. Suggestion: rewrite the text without the use of a pronoun.

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.