Reviewer's report

Title: Cost-effectiveness of a programme of screening and brief interventions in primary care in Italy

Version: 2 Date: 28 November 2013

Reviewer: Peter McMeekin

Reviewer's report:

This research the paper describes is an appropriate way to answer the questions set by the researchers: What is the cost effectiveness of screening and brief interventions to reduce alcohol consumption in Italy.

The authors consider almost all the important issues in their paper. In light of their results I consider these discretionary revisions.

Discretionary Revisions:

1. I suggest that the title includes mention of reduction in alcohol.

2. In the methods section 'model' might be a better description than 'appraise'. In the same section 'The present study' is an odd expression.

3. Methods/Model structure. For ease of reading for people who do not know the SAPM, it might be worth explicitly stating in the text that also estimates how changes in consumption impact on longer term mortality and morbidity.

4. In the discussion section it might be worth giving some consideration to what the comparator to the SBI might be? The implicit assumption is that Italian GPs would offer no advice about consumption. I am not sure if this is the case, but this might reduce the incremental effect. I mention this as a discretionary point in light of the projected low cost per QALY.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests