Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 5 December 2013

Reviewer: Chris Bojke

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Major Compulsory Revision

I think this is an important paper which could have a very practical and beneficial impact. Almost all of the report is up to standard could be published, however there is a large gap regarding the impact of screening on behaviour. The paragraph straddling page 10 and 11 seems to be the only mention and states a mean reduction of 12.3% (for everyone screened?) This is such a vital component of the model and yet is barely discussed. In my opinion this needs far more discussion, including heterogeneity of response.

On a similar note, much of the results seem driven by an assumption of linear trends. This seems a little unlikely and so I would like to see some alternative assumptions tested at least in a sensitivity analysis.

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.