Reviewer’s report

Title: Infection with hepatitis B and C virus in Europe: a systematic review of prevalence and cost-effectiveness of screening

Version: 2 Date: 6 November 2012

Reviewer: Jan Hendrik Richardus

Reviewer’s report:

This paper concerns two separate systematic reviews. Both reviews have been performed and reported very meticulously and I have no comments on methodology and reporting of the findings.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. My main issue with the paper is that there are two reviews in one paper, while the connection between the two reviews is not very strong. The results of the prevalence study feed into the cost-effectiveness review in only a limited way. Also, in the discussion not much attention is given to bring the studies together in one way or another. My advice is to write two separate papers. Although I am generally hesitant to suggest slicing up studies into separate articles, I believe it is justified in this case.

2. With regard to the prevalence study, my main comment is that it is already somewhat dated. The literature search is up to July 2009. I realize that it would be a lot of work to update the review to January 2012, but maybe you could do an additional search and include the most important new studies in the discussion section, stating that some newer papers have been found and explaining whether they add anything to the results. I have a paper in mind, which is a systematic review of HBV prevalence in Turkey and was published in December 2011. You could refer to this paper without including it into the actual analysis, but comment on the findings in relation to your findings. The full reference of this paper is:


There may be other recent papers like this one which you could include.

3. The cost-effectiveness study could easily be updated to 2012; it already includes publications until May 2011.

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.