Reviewer's report

Title: Cost-minimization analysis of XELOX and FOLFOX4 for treatment of colorectal cancer to assist decision-making on reimbursement

Version: 2 Date: 11 March 2011

Reviewer: chris Twelves

Reviewer's report:

This is much improved and certainly worthy of publication.

Regarding specific concerns:

This now seems to be much more honestly presented, with a focus on cost-differences rather than making inferences about cost-effectiveness on the basis of assumptions of equivalent efficacy. In particular, the discussion is much better and describes the usefulness and limitations of the study in a balanced and well informed manner.

95% confidence intervals around mean costs are now presented using bootstrapping as recommended - the CI's do not overlap, implying that the difference in costs is statistically significant (interestingly the confidence intervals are very tight, which is unusual for cost data).

The breakdown and presentation of resource use and costs separately (with sd) is the highlight of the paper for me and provides very useful data for future studies. It adds a lot to the clarity and transparency of the paper.

The analysis from a societal perspective remains rather subjective and speculative, but is worth including.

We are happy that all essential revisions have been implemented and that the paper is methodologically robust.