Reviewer’s report

Title: Public Health Economics: a systematic review of guidance for the economic evaluation of public health interventions and discussion of key methodological issues

Version: 2 Date: 24 June 2013

Reviewer: helen weatherly

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This article clearly specifies and fulfils its’ aim of systematically reviewing guidance for the economic evaluation of public health interventions. It will be especially useful for those wondering what the state of guidance for the economic evaluation of public health interventions is today and for those embarking on such evaluations. So far as I am aware, no other papers offer such an up to date review of existing guidance on the economic evaluation of public health interventions.

It is written in an accessible, relaxed style. The tables provide straight-forward, succinct and useful overviews, summarising relevant published guidance and commentary. A key message from the authors is that those who evaluate public health interventions, including health economists, need to think multi-disciplinary. I anticipate that much of what is covered will be as interesting and useful to non-health economists as to health economists working in field of public health and the paper highlights opportunities for greater collaboration across the disciplines.

A minor comment/discretionary revision: It is perhaps worth updating the review to note that the NICE has recently published an updated ‘Guide to the methods of technology appraisal’ (2013).

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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