Reviewer’s report

Title: The individual and societal burden of chronic pain in Europe: the case for strategic prioritisation and action to improve knowledge and availability of appropriate care

Version: 1 Date: 2 July 2013

Reviewer: Ceri Phillips

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to read this paper. It is a well-crafted and argued piece that again highlights the significant burden that pain represents and warrants the need for greater prioritisation.

Major revisions

The approach employed - utilisation of previous studies - to emphasise the argument also represents the weakness in that there is no indication given of how studies were selected and chosen for inclusion. There are other papers that have argued previously for greater prioritisation for pain management services (for example, Phillips et al. Health Policy, 2008; 88: 166-75) and which the submitted paper could ideally complement and update the issues. Further, while there is mention of some initiatives, the selectivity adopted requires further explanation, but without at least some sort of description of the methods employed it is difficult to gauge what the thinking of the authors was in relation to background, context and directions of argument.

If these issues can be addressed and greater consideration given to context and methods the paper will be considerably enhanced.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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