Reviewer’s report

Title: Quantifying burden of disease to support public health policy in Belgium: opportunities and constraints

Version: 1 Date: 6 September 2014

Reviewer: Steve Bickler

Reviewer’s report:

This is an important manuscript that should be published as it gets at the disconnect between available data and its use in health care planning. Nevertheless there are several areas which require improvement.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
There is no mention of the WHO's most recent GBD Global Health Estimates which provides a comprehensive and comparable assessment of mortality and loss of health due to diseases and injuries for all regions of the world (including at the country level).

The latest WHO assessment is for the years 2000–2012. It would be valuable to know why this data would or would not be acceptable as a planning tool at the country level. IHME also has country level data but just about impossible to get when needed.

Minor Essential Revisions: The graphs would be clear if they were presented as bar graphs rather than dots. Nickel is not spelled correctly.

The author can be trusted to make these. For example, missing labels on figures, the wrong use of a term, spelling mistakes.

Discretionary Revisions: None

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:

No competing interests