Reviewer's report

Title: Differences in avoidable mortality between migrants and the native Dutch in the Netherlands

Version: 3 Date: 14 February 2006

Reviewer: Ellen E. Nolte

Reviewer's report:

General

The authors have addressed all comments in a thoughtful way. There are only three aspects I would like to draw the authors attention to:

1. The justification of including liver cancer is still not quite convincing since 'avoidable' mortality as defined here includes conditions for which it is reasonable to expect (premature) death to be averted even after the condition has developed. Thus, the development of liver cancer may very well be prevented through appropriate measures (i.e. through preventing infection); yet, once liver cancer is developed its treatment prospects are rather poor.

2. The additional calculations for diabetes at different age-limits should be reported in the results section rather than discussion where they can then appropriately be referred to.

3. Last paragraph (p. 15): the added sentence "even though medical services cannot be directly responsible" should perhaps be re-phrased into "even though medical services may not be directly responsible".

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.