Author's response to reviews

Title: Prevalence of diabetes mellitus and the performance of a risk score among Hindustani Surinamese, African Surinamese and ethnic Dutch: a cross-sectional population-based study

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Author's response to reviews:

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Dear editor,

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to address the remaining comment of reviewer Nigel Unwin..

We recently discussed this matter with him by email. In our opinion, one has to make a distinction between the comparison of guidelines on the one hand and the evaluation of the criteria for screening (i.e. identification of unknown cases) on the other hand. We indicated that exclusion of persons with known DM may underestimate the performance of current guidelines, and thus bias the comparison with new guidelines, as “known DM” cases are in part a result of those exact guidelines.

However, we did and do agree that the derivation and particularly evaluation of criteria for screening for unknown DM is ideally done among those without known DM. (Hence the addition of table 4 containing an analysis restricted to new cases as requested by this reviewer during the previous revision). Therefore, we added a comment to the text to further clarify this (p. 7, line 13, after “…with known DM are excluded from screening”):

This was done because, ideally, only previously unknown cases would have been used in the derivation of the risk score for screening for unknown DM. However, given issues of power to enable statistical modelling it was decided to base the score on all cases and to then also estimate the diagnostic accuracy of the risk scores for the detection of new cases of DM.
Finally, we apologise for our delay in submitting the revision. Nevertheless, we sincerely hope that this version of the manuscript can be accepted for publication.

Best regards, on behalf of all co-authors,

Irene van Valkengoed