Reviewer's report

**Title:** Avoidable costs of physical treatments for chronic back, neck and shoulder pain within the Spanish National Health Service: A cross-sectional study

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 17 November 2011

**Reviewer:** Heikki M Hemmilä

**Reviewer's report:**

I found the authors to address the reviewers comments quite satisfactorily. The article seems now more informative, specially for international readers. But it also gives a hint of how things could be reorganized to benefit more from the limited resources. There are certain unavoidable weaknesses in the collection of data but the limitations of official statistics evidently explain the scarcity of this kind of studies as a whole. In that sense the study definitely deserves to be published.

One more minor discretionary comment: The order of items in the graphs of Figure 1. could be changed so as to demonstrate more explicitly the proportion of effective versus ineffective therapies. Eg. in order of proof of effectiveness. :-)

**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:**

I declare that I have no competing interests