Reviewer’s report

Title: The consequences of delaying insulin initiation in UK type 2 diabetes patients failing oral hyperglycaemic agents: a modelling study

Version: 2 Date: 15 April 2009

Reviewer: Edoardo Mannucci

Reviewer’s report:

The new version of the paper is much more balanced than the original manuscript. A few more corrections should be made.

Minor essential revisions

1) I agree with the authors that the UKPDS results on MI are the best possible choice for modeling the effects of intensified diabetes treatment on cardiovascular events. However, those results were not statistically significant; this should be clearly and explicitly recognized in the Methods section, and included as a limitation in the Discussion section.

2) Although the existing (epidemiological) evidence suggesting that insulin treatment is associated with higher cancer-related mortality cannot be considered fully convincing, I think that it deserves a proper citation in the Discussion, to highlight a further possible limitation of the study. The reference is Bowker et al., Diabetes Care 2006; 29: 254.

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 have received speaking fees, consultancy fees, and/or research grants from manufacturers of insulin (Ely Lilly, Novo Nordisk, Sanofi Aventis) and from manufacturers of hypoglycemic drugs potentially alternative to insulin (the same as above, plus Novartis, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Glaxo SmithKline, Takeda, Merck KgA, Guidotti, Abiogen).