Reviewer's report

**Title:** Cost Analysis of Periodontitis Management in Public Sector Specialist Dental Clinics

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 7 February 2014

**Reviewer:** Gerald McKenna

**Reviewer's report:**

This is an interesting article within the context of health economics and its application to clinical dentistry. However, I have a number of concerns which I feel require attention.

Major Revisions

1. The paper contains 11 named authors, can all of these names be justified?
2. The research aims to capture cost-effectiveness data from both a societal and the patient's own perspective. Firstly, in my opinion the societal viewpoint is more important and the data has been generated to facilitate this. The patient's viewpoint is more difficult to quantify and I do not think the authors have been successful in achieving this. For example reference is made to loss of productivity but I am unsure as to how this was calculated. The manuscript would be more focused if only the societal viewpoint was included.
3. The authors need to provide details as to why particular clinics were chosen for data collection and others not e.g. east Malaysia. Is the sample representative of the whole country?
4. Details need to provided on the clinical condition of the patients treated as this will have significant cost implications e.g. how much did it cost to treat a patient with severe chronic periodontitis vs a patient with mild chronic periodontitis. What were the diagnostic criteria for accepting patients - were patients with gingivitis treated or not?
5. Detail is required about the treatment interventions - were these standardised between clinics? Were all patients within a particular diagnostic category treated non surgically or did some require surgery - how were these decisions made?
6. What was the maintenance regime? Was this standardised? Which personnel carried this out?
7. What surgery was carried out? Was it simply open flap curettage and debridement or Guided Tissue Regeneration (GTR)?
8. It is unclear why other restorative treatments were included in the analysis e.g. endodontics and prosthodontics. These are not relevant to a study of periodontal treatment.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published.

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I have no conflicting interests.