Reviewer's report

Title: Independent external validation of cardiovascular disease mortality in women utilising Framingham and SCORE risk models: a mortality follow-up study

Version: Date: 15 July 2014

Reviewer: Olga Khavjou

Reviewer's report:

This is an important paper that assesses the performance of three CVD risk score calculators in a cohort of Australian women. The authors find that all three calculators perform relatively well in the low risk population but that they overestimate the risk in the higher-risk group. There is a large number of various CVD risk calculators available for various populations thus it is important to identify the ones most appropriate for specific populations and I believe this study addresses this issue for the population of Australian women.

I think this is a very well organized and written paper. I only have a few minor discretionary revisions to suggest.

1. line 49: if that the number of deaths of 45622 in Australia? please specify.
2. line 51: I'd change "or" at the end of the line to "and"
3. line 59: same as above, I'd change "or" at the beginning of the line to "and"
4. line 59: I'd change guidelines to plural
5. line 60: also add "race" to include "race/ethnicity"
6. line 61: change to: "high blood pressure, high cholesterol,..."
7. paragraph starting on page 55: I'd like to see a brief discussion of how the various risk calculators are different. Do they include different risk factors? Are they derived for different populations?
8. line 75: "are" should be replaced with "is"
9: line 199: I'd like to see the number of deaths reported as the number (152) and as percent of total population
10: lines 248-249: please also report the number of deaths by which they were estimated (in addition to percent)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests