Author’s response to reviews

Title: Review of risk sharing schemes for pharmaceuticals: considerations, critical evaluation and recommendations for European payers

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Review of risk sharing schemes for pharmaceuticals: considerations, critical evaluation and recommendations for European payers

Addressing Reviewer comments

Reviewers’ report

A) Version: 2 Date: 8 April 2010 - Reviewer: L M.A Braakman

Reviewer’s report:
I am satisfied with the comment the authors gave to my questions. The scope of the manuscript is now clear and the section with definitions is very helpful for the reader.
To my opinion, the revised version of the manuscript is now acceptable for publication

Author comment

We thank the reviewer for their positive comments

B) Version: 2 Date: 7 April 2010 - Reviewer: Paul V Grootendorst

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions:
The revised paper reads much better, but I would suggest that it be professionally edited to improve its readability. There are run-on sentences, examples of incorrect syntax and the writing is such that the meaning of some sentences is unclear. For instance, “Schemes to limit payer exposure to excessive costs, uncertainty, or both including limiting ‘off label’ use and prescribing outside of sub-populations where the value of the technology is greatest, incorporate price-volume agreements (PVAs), patient access schemes, ‘coverage with evidence development’ schemes as well as payment by result schemes based on outcomes; these latter schemes also known as performance-based contracts, efficiency stipulation schemes or effectiveness guarantees[13,19-22,24-36].”

I would also ask the authors to clarify one statement: “In practice the agreement lies in setting the scope and realizing the mutual obligations amongst both payers and pharmaceutical companies depending on the occurrence of an agreed condition – the “risk”, i.e. sales expenditure higher than agreed thresholds.” Later on the authors review pay for performance agreements – ones in which payment is refunded if health gains are not achieved. So it would appear that not all agreements revolve around sales exceeding some threshold.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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

Author’s comment

We thank the reviewer for his comments. We have made substantial improvements to address his concerns including those highlighted in the revised manuscript (all changes are highlighted). We hope the paper is now accepted for publication