Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 7 April 2010

Reviewer: Paul V Grootendorst

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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