Reviewer's report

Title: The hidden cost of chronic fatigue to patients and their families

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Reviewer: Petros Skapinakis

Reviewer's report:

The authors have carried out the analysis I had suggested in my previous review. They have reported these results as a type of sensitivity analysis which I think is ok. It seems that before adjustment for WASA scores depression is associated with higher total costs. After adjustment this association is not significant any more. Due to the cross-sectional nature of the data we don't know whether higher functional limitation leads to more depression or depression leads to higher functional limitation. The authors do not discuss this in their discussion perhaps because the level of variation explained by the model with the WASA scores is higher compared to the model without the WASA. I understand their point and I think that the authors' point is justified.

I don't have any other objection to the publication of this manuscript and I think that the paper has been substantially improved.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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'