Reviewer's report

Title: Healthcare Costs in Patients with Metastatic Lung Cancer Receiving Chemotherapy

Version: 1 Date: 16 May 2011

Reviewer: Klazien Matter-Walstra

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
- This paper does not really pose a question, rather a statement of what will be done, without acknowledging why this is necessary.
- There is some problem with the method. The identification of patients to be included in the study is by means of indicators also used for the analysis. As the authors state in the discussion, "this means that some patient may not be found in the database" because for example they have no chemotherapy. Would it not have been better to identify the patients by an independent source such as a cancer registry? To identify and analyze patients using the same variable bears a great risk of bias.
- As the authors state the results may not be generalizable the results of the study are difficult to put into context with other studies and only add up to the already existing other studies which "preclude comparison" (page 1).
- Conclusion: It is unclear how the results of the study “may be useful in informing medical resource allocation in this patient population”. Is there a need to change allocation or to decrease or increase costs spend on a certain type of care? The conclusion seems weak and without any impact.

Minor Essential Revisions:
- In the Introduction last sentence page 1 it is stated that lifetime healthcare utilization and costs are analyzed. What exactly is meant by lifetime, as only costs from a certain point in life until death or end of study were studied?
- "indirect costs" (page 8 second last sentence) should be defined.

Discretionary revisions:
- none

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.