Reviewer’s report

Title: Excess costs of dementia disorders and the role of age and gender An analysis of German health and long-term care insurance claims data

Version: 1 Date: 27 March 2012

Reviewer: Victor Vickland

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The real weakness of this paper is in the method of identification of patient with dementia and lack of reporting on the severity of symptoms. Reliance on drug prescriptions as an indicator of dementia diagnosis can’t be accepted. Authors should provide evidence regarding stratification of the case group based on severity of dementia. If that is not possible authors should report that weakness in the discussion.

Minor Essential Revisions

2. Naming the second group as 'Non-demented controls" is incorrect. The authors had no means to 'control' that group therefore all comparisons were made between two different groups of patients. Perhaps ‘Patients with dementia’ and 'Patients without dementia' will be more appropriate terminology.

3. Doted lines in Figure 2 are just too similar in PDF document for easy interpretation of the results

4. Using terms such as 'coeval', 'societal', 'ca.' should be avoided.

5. Choice of keywords has little relationship to the main theme of this paper.

6. Careful proof reading is required as there are numerous spelling mistakes all through this manuscript

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests