Reviewer's report

Title: A simple diabetes vascular severity staging instrument and its application to a Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal adult cohort of north Australia

Version: 2 Date: 30 April 2012

Reviewer: Björn Stollenwerk

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Discretionary Revisions

Results: A space is missing in “stage1”.

Figure 1: If the confidence intervals were displayed as error bars, it would be easier to grasp whether the cost increase by stage is significant or not.

Objective: The sentence “Construct validity was assessed by testing for the expected relationship between the new diabetes severity score and hospitalisation and mortality” would better fit to the methods section, not to the introduction/objective. The introduction should better not state, what you did, but what you aimed to do. However, this might be a question of taste.

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.