Reviewer's report

Title: Economic burden of stroke in a large county in Sweden

Version: 3 Date: 3 August 2012

Reviewer: Samantha Smith

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Minor essential revisions:

1. The authors have responded to most of the points raised in the earlier review. The only issue that has not been fully addressed is the issue of sensitivity analysis. While direct costs in the first year of a stroke are based on 'real conditions of cases that occurred during one year', from my understanding of the methods, assumptions have been used in the estimation of lifetime costs and informal care costs. Some sensitivity around these estimates should be considered or at least discussed.

2. The text refers to 'informal care costs' and to 'costs for loss of productivity'. To me, there are two sources of productivity loss on which a value is placed in the analysis: opportunity cost of productivity foregone due to informal care; productivity foregone due to sick leave and early retirement of the stroke patients, i.e., both are forms of productivity loss.

3. Figure 2

The revision to Figure 2 regarding premature death is acknowledged. However, death can still occur at any point in the chain of health-care and I do not see the value added of including the possibility of death at only one point in the chain – why not leave out premature death in transportation to hospital and indicate that the flow diagram refers to stroke survivors.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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