Reviewer's report

**Title:** Should health insurers target prevention of cardiovascular disease? An analysis of the costs and effects of an individualized programme in Germany based on routine data

**Version:** 2  
**Date:** 20 February 2014

**Reviewer:** Martin Emmert

**Reviewer's report:**

**GENERAL REMARKS**

The paper deals with a very important topic and contributes to further knowledge with respect to prevention in the German health care sector. The authors evaluate the cost-effectiveness of the individualized prevention strategy KardioPro and therefore, they calculate the incremental cost-effectiveness ratios for several subgroups (i.e., high risk, medium-risk, low-risk group, and with known CHD). Overall, the paper is very well conducted, states a clearly defined research question and the methodology seems appropriate for answering the stated question. Applied statistical methods are well described in detail and appear to be appropriate for the purpose of the study. Furthermore, the results are presented in an adequate manner. The discussion section and conclusions drawn all appear appropriate from the results presented. It is also a very relevant topic for both research and practice and the paper would add evidence for further discussions.

Consequently, I would recommend the paper for publication in the current state. Just some minor revisions should be considered.

- **Minor Compulsory Revisions**

1. The aim of the study is to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of the individualized prevention strategy KardioPro, which focusses on coronary heart disease (CHD). I think that the title of the paper should be modified to make clear that it is a cost-effectiveness study and not just a description of both costs and outcomes without explicitly linking them to each other.

2. You state that your study is “the first to inform decision makers on the cost-effectiveness of different individualized CHD prevention strategies.” However, I am not sure whether this statement should be inserted here since no evidence therefore is provided therefore; e.g., by conducting a systematic search procedure. Therefore, you should state “To our knowledge” or a similar expression.

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable
**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests