Reviewer's report

Title: The development of a public optometry system in Mozambique: a Cost Benefit Analysis

Version: 1 Date: 17 April 2014

Reviewer: Roger Chung

Reviewer's report:

This is an important study that addresses an important public health issue in Mozambique. However, major revision is needed. In particular, sensitivity analyses are needed for the projection.

Major Compulsory Revisions

- The Introduction section would benefit a lot with a paragraph on the epidemiology of the URE in Mozambique and probably in Africa, and how that compares to the rest of the world.

- VERY IMPORTANT: You need to have sensitivity analyses of all your projected values to show how your results respond to parameter changes. State very clearly what your assumptions are. Alternatively, you may conduct a risk analysis using Monte Carlo simulations. It is not acceptable that your projected cost values have no range.

- Figure 1: Please show results from the sensitivity analyses of your projection, besides this base case scenario.

- The paper would also benefit with an additional table listing out all the assumptions of each base case and sensitivity scenarios.

- Table 4 is 5% discounting? You need to justify why 5% not 3% here. Moreover, you may use other % of discounting for sensitivity analyses.

- The Discussion and Conclusion sections are awfully long, but lack a clear structure, and makes it very difficult to grasp the key points. It is almost impossible to follow. Please revise them to give a clearer flow and structure (may need to seek advise for technical writing expert). Also, the Conclusion should at most have 2 paragraphs, and preferably 1 paragraph. Please revise.

Minor Essential Revisions

- I would suggest not to use numerical subheadings under the "Costs" section. Please use italic instead.

- In Conclusion section, 1st paragraph: "it is an attractive and justifiable..."

Discretionary Revisions
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.