Reviewer's report

Title: Reimbursement for reconstruction by tissue transfer - A European comparison

Version: 2 Date: 8 March 2014

Reviewer: Friedrich Ihler

Reviewer's report:

The authors take on a very important issue in today's healthcare markets. By systematically analysing reimbursements achieved for free and pedicled flaps for various diagnoses by applying national grouper software, the present paper compares the situation in five different European countries. The basic question is addressed appropriately and convincing conclusions are drawn.

Minor Essential Revisions

Results

Table 2: the legend reads "Length of stay", but according to the text (p 6, l 8-9), it gives the upper threshold of length of stay (uLoS); later the text discusses "mean" values (p 6, l 10) - please clarify!

p 6, l19: when mean values are stated in the text, please give also standard deviation

p 7, l22: there are brackets missing for "figure 3"

p 8, l2: it should say "present" instead of "following"

Discussion

Overall, since the authors present results on accurate sums of money, the discussion should draw from the literature and compare the sums to data reported before. Of particular interest would be remuneration in the USA, since it is one of the biggest healthcare markets - is there data published on remuneration of flaps and how does it compare? Please add to the discussion!

p 8, l25: the technical details on literature search strategy should be transferred to the methods section.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.