Reviewer's report

Title: Development and assessment of a questionnaire for health care utilization and costs for cardiac patients

Version: 2 Date: 31 January 2008

Reviewer: Steffen Flessa

Reviewer's report:

General: This is an excellent paper. Everybody working in this field has severe problems to get data from the insurance companies, the hospitals etc. Therefore, this attempt to develop and assess a questionnaire for health care utilisation and costs for cardiac patients is warmly welcome!

Minor Revisions:

. I wonder why the questionnaire (that takes almost 30 minutes!) is so well accepted. My experience teaches that usually patients don't want to answer anything longer than 5 minutes. What did you do to get such a high rate? Or what is the reason?

- It is not completely clear how it can be applied to other diseases.

- How can we get a full copy of the questionnaire? It might be helpful for the readers to have it.

- Can there be a bias, i.e. those who filled the questionnaire where highly educated and sensitive to these questions.

- The abstract states that you need 27 minutes to fill it, the discussion 28 minutes?

- how did you manage to get the data from the sickness funds? that is usually a problem in Germany!

- the discussion might improve by a few sub-headings.

- what are "average per diem rates"? We have DRGs in Germany. Or do you mean the indirect costs? Not clear to me.

- I would not take the "Â§" sign for a footnote. The "**" is small, but the "Â§" looks very big. Maybe you use "***".

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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’