Author's response to reviews

Title: Initial Impact and Cost of a Nationwide Population Screening Campaign for Diabetes in Brazil: a Follow up Study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
July 3rd, 2008

Andrea Bucceri PhD
Assistant Editor
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Dear Dr. Bucceri:

The authors are grateful for further comments and suggestion received from the reviewers on our manuscript, “Initial Impact and Cost of a Nationwide Population Screening Campaign for Diabetes in Brazil: a Follow up Study”.

We have considered them and have revised the manuscript accordingly. Please find below a point-by-point description of the changes made.

Sincerely,

Cristiana Toscano, MD, DSc
Andrea Icks have provided no further comments.

Reply to specific points from Thomas Hoerger's review:

**Major revisions:**

- Labor costs have been estimated and are now considered in the analysis. We have provided detailed information in the methods on how these costs have been estimated and have recalculated the total cost of the diabetes screening campaign and estimated cost per new diabetes case diagnosed. Sensitivity analysis was further conducted considering a range of personnel cost estimates and results are described in the text. Labor costs considered included all those associated with program planning and implementation, in the local, state and National level.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

- We have compared our results with those of similar programs which have been described in the literature. Many of these are from US programs, as limited data on cost of screening programs in developing countries is available. We agree with the reviewer that cross-national comparisons of program costs are difficult to make and present several limitations, and this has been noted in the text.

**Additional Revisions**

- As costs with personnel in the local level have now been considered in the case-base analysis, we have recalculated the ranges of additional local costs (as a percentage of national costs) considered for sensitivity analysis. These ranges now vary from 10-25% as they consider only additional costs exclusive of personnel costs.