Reviewer’s report

Title: A test of financial incentives to improve warfarin adherence

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Reviewer: Michel Burnier

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In this paper, the authors have investigated the impact of a lottery based incentive on drug adherence and control of anticoagulation in patients receiving warfarin. Their preliminary data suggest that a lottery can increase drug adherence but the effect does not last in their experimental conditions.

Major criticism:

1. The reviewer sees this study as a pilot study with most of these limitations i.e. the risk of selection bias, the absence of control groups, historical controls and so on. Nonetheless, the idea is interesting and would deserve further large scale investigations. One interesting aspect is that as many other procedures used to support drug adherence, the impact of the lottery appears to be transient and limited to the duration of the lottery. It would be of interest to know whether a sustained effect can be obtained or not.

The is approach would also need a careful cost-effectiveness calculation. How much was really spent in addition to the cost of drugs and how many "clinical events" were saved ? This should of course be investigated in a larger trial.

One point that could be discussed in the paper is the ethical aspect of a lottery to support drug adherence ? Is there a possibility of "side-effects" of the approach in some patients ? Is there a risk of overdosing with time if patients try to correct for missed doses knowing that the INR will be measured.. ?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.