Reviewer’s report

Title: A cost minimisation analysis of a telepaediatric otolaryngology service

Version: 1 Date: 23 July 2007

Reviewer: David Pothier

Reviewer’s report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

This is a very interesting study that compares the cost of tele-ENT with standard outpatient patient review. Although this study is very compelling, there is a lack of direction in the statements being made about relative cost. The paper attempts to draw generalisable conclusions, but then uses local examples to make the relevant calculations (e.g. the fact that some infrastructure existed at tele-ENT clinic)

To make a useful statement of cost-effectiveness that can be expanded, clear aims and objectives should be used to define the context of the results.

Without the consistency required of this paper, the results are meaningless. I think that the opinion of a health economist would be of enormous value to a paper such as this one.

Once the exact aims and objectives of the study can be reconciled with the outcomes measured by the investigators, a more thorough review can be made.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

**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