Reviewer's report

Title: Metabolic control in a nationally representative elderly sample in Costa Rica: patients at community health centers vs. patients at other health care settings.

Version: 1 Date: 18 November 2007

Reviewer: Martin Gulliford

Reviewer's report:

Metabolic control in a nationally representative elderly sample in Costa Rica

This paper presents an analysis of data for diabetic elderly subjects from a nationally representative sample in Costa Rica. This paper is clearly written and presents a thorough analysis of the subject. I have a few minor comments:

1. Include ‘diabetes’ in the title.

2. In the Introduction it would help to understand the demographic context by describing the ethnic origins of the study population.

3. In the text, where it refers to ‘risky levels’ this may be an inappropriate term since these are risk factors that are associated with graded elevations in risk.

4. In Table 3, to describe the data standard deviations should be given for continuous variables.

5. In Tables 4 and 5, it would be worth associating risk factor levels with patterns of treatment. For example, if hypertensive were subjects treated? if treated was their blood pressure controlled? What patterns of therapy were associated with HbA1c and lipids?

6. I agree with the authors that the values for metabolic parameters seem surprisingly favourable. Is it possible to evaluate the validity of self-reported diagnoses from the metabolic data? Can we be sure the subjects were diabetic? How were metabolic parameters associated with diabetes duration?

What next?: Accept after minor essential 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