Reviewer's report

Title: Economic burden of diabetes mellitus in the WHO African Region

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Reviewer: Ambady Ramachandran

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The data is of great importance as it projects the economic burden posed by diabetes management, in poor income countries.

The following points are suggested for better presentation of the data.

Ø A short description of the health care system in Africa is required.

Ø Does the Government bear the cost of the treatment? If so, what percentage? What is the direct cost to the patient?

Ø It is shown that the major expenditure is for insulin and the injection devices. What percentage of the patients are type 1 diabetes? Among the type 2 diabetes, what is the percentage requiring insulin?

Ø Are the hospitalizations made due to acute complications or for treatment of long-term complications?

Ø The findings shown in “discussion” have to be in the “results” section.

Ø Generally, the indirect cost is higher than the direct costs. The disparity in this study should be discussed.