Reviewer's report

Title: Do clinical guidelines reduce clinician dependent costs?

Version: 1 Date: 14 October 2010

Reviewer: Thomas Bodenheimer

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting article on an important subject. The article is well written. The studies reviewed are so different that general conclusions are difficult to make. However, the discussion could be stronger than it is currently. Issues that the discussion might delve into in more detail are 1) a general discussion about the ability of guidelines to reduce costs (since the review found that in some cases costs were reduced and in some cases increased), 2) are cost savings more likely for in-patient or out-patient situations? 3) can anything be said about which kinds of interventions are more likely or less likely to reduce costs? The modeling studies are less interesting than the intervention studies and the authors might consider deleting them because modeling interventions that change provider behavior have assumptions that are often not realistic.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.