Reviewer's report

Title: Systematic review of clinical practice guidelines recommendations about primary cardiovascular disease prevention for older adults.

Version: 2 Date: 29 April 2015

Reviewer: Bart Ferket

Reviewer's report:

This is a very comprehensive review of guidelines for cardiovascular disease prevention. The authors should be applauded for the level of detail and the clear writing.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. So far as I can assess all major guidelines are included, although due to the period covered two important UK CVD risk assessment guidelines (JBS3 and NICE CG181) and one US hypertension guideline (NHLBI JNC8) are not included.

These guidelines are however very influential and it would be of added value to at least discuss the potential changes they have for elderly in the discussion.

Minor Essential Revisions:
2. for counting benefits and harms the benefits and harms are used as mentioned by the guidelines. In table 2 these are tabulated, but very often I do not see why the statement reported should be a potential benefit or harm. The following statements are most unclear:
   - "Repeated screening not needed for cholesterol" is given as potential harm, that seems to be a benefit to me.
   - "Short term models do not reflect lifetime approach" that would rather apply to younger individuals, in elderly a 10-yr risk model (if competing risk due non-CVD risk is taken into account) would approximate a lifetime horizon.
   - "Treatment thresholds do not reflect continuum of risk" I do not understand this statement
   - "Use of resources for people less likely to benefit due to short lifespan" I do not understand this one as well
   - "Costs" wouldn't that be beneficial? total costs of treatment are lower probably because elderly have a shorter lifespan?
   - "Ceiling effect to benefit for highest risk groups (incl very old) I do not understand this statement

Discretionary Revisions:
3. The authors may refer to Savarese et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2013 Dec
3;62(22):2090-9 for discussing the effects of statins in the elderly.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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