Reviewer’s report

Title: Cost-effectiveness analysis of a school-based dental caries prevention program using fluoridated milk in Bangkok, Thailand

Version: 1 Date: 25 Dec 2017

Reviewer: Peter Milgrom

Reviewer's report:

The revised paper is improved but still requires additional mandatory changes:

1. In the background section, move the paragraph that begins on line 43, page 3 to be the second paragraph. Reword the last sentence in the paragraph to clarify what is meant by "relevant to Thailand conditions." Line 41, delete the change in wording of the last sentence. The previous wording was better English.

2. In the second paragraph now beginning line 21, the authors talk about the "oral health programme." They create confusion here. They never say clearly in the manuscript if the control school is receiving all these benefits except the milk fluoridation. The control costs later in the manuscript don't seem to include these costs. The tables also do not include the enumerated control costs. There is a serious lack of clarity about the control throughout the manuscript.

3. Page 4, paragraph 2 (line 19) requires careful editing. This is not the place to be reviewing possible formats. In this paragraph, the authors should state the format and model. The sentence on line 32 can be deleted. The second sentence "Health economists…) on line 43 can be deleted. To the extent it is important to comment on these aspects, this should be in the discussion.

4. Page 5, line 9—change the word "subjects" to "categories".

5. The URLs within the text should be archived if possible.

6. Page 9, line 15 -move the sentence "Health benefits…were not discounted" to the end of the previous paragraph. Delete the remainder of the paragraph.

7. Page 10, line 11—fix the grammar "data were". Line 18—change "presented" to "published".

8. Page 12, line 17—use 600 instead of spelling this out.
9. In the results section, the grammar should be reviewed by a Native English speaker. Sometimes the past tense is used while in other places the conditional is used. It is confusing and inconsistent.

10. Page 14, line 21—change the sentence to read "cost to the government sponsoring agency". Delete the parenthetical (e.g. BMA). Line 46, provide a reference when talking about other programs.

11. Page 22, the first table should be labeled Table 1. Revise the description of the table so it can stand alone. Add the location of the analysis, the time period, etc. Modify the footnote to provide the USD equivalent or similar to make it easier for the reader who may not be familiar with the value of the Baht. Revise the descriptions of the other tables accordingly so that they can be read and understood without referring to the text.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
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Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

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