Reviewer’s report

Title: Identifying and explaining the variability in development and implementation costs of disease management programs in the Netherlands

Version: 3 Date: 31 May 2014

Reviewer: Dominick Esposito

Reviewer’s report:

Major revisions. Please report costs on an annual basis rather than aggregate. Two of the three positive association are costs to duration, suggesting that not reporting them annually might skew interpretation of findings. Moreover, decision makers generally care about costs annualized to decide upon budgets from year to year. By normalizing costs in this way and dropping the associations between costs to duration, we might come to slightly different conclusions and might identify that costs are not as widely distributed as reported after all. I strongly believe that some type of normalization is required before this can be published.

minor revisions are included in comment bubbles in the manuscript.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

no competing interests