Reviewer's report

Title: Incidence of severe hypoglycaemic episodes in patients with type 2 diabetes in the Basque Country: impact on healthcare costs

Version: 2
Date: 18 August 2014
Reviewer: fernando antonanzas

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:
- Lines 159-162 correspond to results and not to discussion.
- Table 1 should include the source.
- Table 2, when calculating the odds ratio, the age group 35-39 is fixed to one, therefore, the older groups should have it greater than one, as it was the case for females that have it greater than one, that was the value fixed for males. Is there any misunderstanding?
- Table 3 summarises cost results. However a more disaggregated table including other costs mentioned at the method section such as "rehabilitation sessions, outpatient specialty care and primary care doctors and nurses; lab tests and X-rays requested in primary care; some procedures such as dialysis, radiation therapy or chemotherapy performed in day hospitals)" are lost and apparently are not added up to obtain the total costs of those patients. Authors should explain better how the cost calculations have been done and why those costs have been disregarded.
- In lines 89-96, authors calculate costs per patient, but it is not clearly stated at the method section if those costs are bottom-up obtained or top-down generated, i.e. if authors have aggregated all costs of each hypo patient and divided them by the number of patients or just added up all the concepts of costs and divided them by the number of patients. Clarification in this issue would allow to reproduce the study and create a larger knowledge in the field.
- In line 103 authors classify population in 2 groups. However, at the method section it is not well defined how they had access to data on patients without hypo episodes and their health resources utilization (to calculate the costs of this group and compare with the costs of the hypo patients).

Minor revisions

At the discussion section, authors could have compared their results with other European studies on hypo patients -both epidemiological and economic- and also with the costs of DM2 in general without hypo episodes.

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: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I have no competing interests.