Reviewer’s report

Title: Towards new recommendations to reduce the burden of alcohol-induced hypertension in the European Union

Version: 1 Date: 07 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Nhung Nghiem

Reviewer's report:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to review this article. I mainly focused on the authors' responses to Reviewer #4 as per the journal's request. I think that all the comments made by Reviewer #4 had been adequately addressed, except the one below that required the estimate of (healthy) life years gained. I don't agree with the authors' response to this reviewer comment: "All deaths are premature". To estimate healthy life years gained, one needs to attach disability weights to different health states (see Cobiac et al). Disability weights can vary quite a lot by health states (see Salomon et al). Therefore, with disability weights attached, health gains from stroke can be very different with those from liver cirrhosis. This results in the total health gains changes by the distribution of health states, incidence and prevalence of diseases among other epidemiological factors (and hence influencing the cost-effectiveness evaluation of the intervention).

Reviewer #4: SPECIFIC COMMENTS: b. A grave limitation of the CRA method to deaths averted is the failure to capture the years of (healthy) life saved. It sounds useful to say that X deaths averted, but at what age? How much life gained? Etc. For a publication in high impact journals, I think some estimate of (healthy) life years gained is required.

Authors' response: All deaths are premature, as we only modelled people ages 40 to 65 (see page 15, line 5; page 16, line 10, page 17, line 9).


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

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls? If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

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

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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