Reviewer's report

Title: Current European guidelines for management of arterial hypertension: Are they adequate for use in primary care? Modelling study based on the Norwegian HUNT 2 population

Version: 3 Date: 15 September 2009

Reviewer: Jonathan Mant

Reviewer's report:

The authors have clarified how they calculated the workload, which was the key limitation, and have adequately addressed the other concerns.

My only residual concern is that the authors have not discussed out how much of the workload is additional to what GPs currently do. This is the point brought out by the other referee that the key point is the additional workload. If implementation of the guideline leads to a lot of new consultations, then the authors have demonstrated this is not plausible in Norway. If on the other hand, the blood pressure is monitored during consultations for other aspects of care, then this is less of a problem. Thus, the point about diabetes - such people will be reviewed several times over the course of the year, so having BP measured 3.5 times is no additional workload. Similarly, patients with other risk factors may be seen anyway as part of the management of those risk factors. Some acknowledgement of these issues in the discussion would be fine.

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.