Reviewer’s report

Title: Systematic reviews need to consider applicability to disadvantaged populations: inter-rater agreement for an equity plausibility algorithm

Version: 2 Date: 3 December 2012

Reviewer: Maria Ospina

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Systematic reviews need to consider applicability to disadvantaged populations: inter-rater agreement for a health equity plausibility algorithm

Peer Reviewer: Maria Ospina

Reviewer’s report (#2)

The manuscript by Welch et al is aimed at developing and assessing inter-rater agreement for an algorithm that will help systematic reviewers to predict whether differences in relative effect measures are likely for disadvantaged populations relative to advantaged populations.

I commend the authors for taking the peer-reviewer comments in such a positive way. I think the manuscript has improved substantially and I have no major compulsory nor minor essential revisions.

Thank you for the opportunity for reviewing your manuscript and I hope my previous comments were helpful in this process.

I just have one minor discretionary suggestions:

• Page 4: Please, spell out the WHO acronym (i.e. World Health Organization) the first time it is used in the manuscript (line 3).

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

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.