Reviewer’s report

Title: Association between socio-economic status and hemoglobin A1c levels in a non-diabetic primary care population.

Version: 1 Date: 16 July 2013

Reviewer: Joanna Moschandreas

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Previous studies have found evidence that effects of material deprivation on impaired glucose tolerance (and BMI) differ according to gender. Was a possible interaction between gender and deprivation considered in the present context? Were random slopes considered in the model?

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The title is “Association between socio-economic status and hemoglobin A1c levels in a non-diabetic primary care population”. The sample, however, is not necessarily representative of a primary care population as it consists of non-diabetics aged 45+ with a haemoglobin A1C measurement recorded in the Electronic Medical Records (EMR) system over a recent 3 year period (2009-11). A more appropriate title would be “Association between socio-economic status and hemoglobin A1c levels in a non-diabetic Canadian adult population”

2. Pg 6 paragraph 3. Remove the word “increasing” on the first line.

3. There are mistakes in Table 3. It appears that there are “-” signs missing at least 6 of the confidence intervals (assuming the confidence intervals presented in the Abstract, pg 3, are correct).

4. The year of publication is missing in references 1 and 6

5. Page 10 Replace “there were significant associations” by “there were statistically significant associations”. Check the remainder of the text also.

6. Methods pg7-8. The description of the SES variables focuses on the ecological aspect. More details should be provided here of the indices themselves e.g. how were they combined (model four in Table 4)? And in the Discussion, a section could be added in which the 4 different SES indices are compared and contrasted to justify why it was necessary to consider all 4 indices in the present study.

7. Only 37.7% of the sample was male (Table 1). Were males less likely to have the HbA1c screening test? Discuss in the 2nd paragraph of pg 13, in the context of the study limitations (sample representativeness).
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