Reviewer’s report

Title: Insights into the clinical management of the syndrome of supine hypertension - orthostatic hypotension (SH-OH): The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA)

Version: 3 Date: 23 June 2013

Reviewer: Ruth Peters

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1: Thank you for the additional comments related to the results for age and gender. It is clear that these are non modifiable risk factors and not the main focus for the paper, however, given the postulated sequence of pathophysiological steps on page 20 (OH->OI->fainting) it would be helpful to explore the role of age and particularly sex further. At present, those who are female and older are significantly more likely to have MOH3, (table 3) however, when OI is the dependent variable and MOH3 membership a covariate being female and older are significantly less likely to have OI (table 4). When MOH3 and OI are both included in a model with blackuts or faints as the dependent variable being female is once again significantly associated with increased risk. It would be helpful if this could be discussed further alongside the presentation of the sequence model in the discussion.

2: Thank you for the flow chart - is it possible to add information as to those lost to these analyses? Eg what made participants not complete each stage etc: If this information is not present then it could be discussed as a limitation?

Minor essential revisions - None

Discretionary revisions

1: thank you for table 1 - it would be helpful to have an additional column detailing the characteristics of the remainder of the population.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests