Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of anaemia in older persons: systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 27 August 2007

Reviewer: William Ershler

Reviewer's report:

General
This is a well written and comprehensive review on the prevalence of anemia in geriatric populations. The paper is an appropriate summary of an evolving literature implicating the presence of and untoward clinical outcomes. Although there have been other reviews on this topic recently, none has been as thorough.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
None.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
None.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
The paper would have be strengthened if the authors were to offer a more in depth discussion about the racial differences in both the prevalence and consequences of anemia. Why is it that older Blacks have a higher prevalence of anemia but seem to be less impaired by it? Would this suggest that different diagnositi criteria be established on the basis of race? This is an area of considerable controversy and a comment indicating the authors’ impressions would be of value.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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.