Reviewer’s report

Title: Sex-specific disease outcomes of HIV-positive and HIV-negative drug users admitted to an opioid substitution therapy program in Spain: a cohort study.

Version: 2 Date: 2 July 2014

Reviewer: Sarah Larney

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have completed a thorough revision, taking into account the peer reviews. A few minor points remain:

Methods: It was still a bit unclear to me that the mobile unit and pharmacies are dispensing services under the same MTP. Perhaps says something like “Within the program, methadone is dispensed via a primary care center, a mobile unit and five community pharmacies”.

Results: It might be helpful to note in the first paragraph the proportion of participants not injecting, as it is not clear at first that there are some participants who do not inject.

Under ‘follow-up and outcomes’ “14 deaths occurred during the first month of treatment” – it would be more accurate to say “14 deaths occurred within one month of first entry to treatment” as we don’t know for certain if people were still in treatment when they died.

Table 3: The authors have clarified their modelling strategy. What is still unclear is why the multivariate hazard ratio for HIV infection in men differs from the univariate hazard ratio, given that HIV infection is the only variable in the ‘multivariate’ model. Please explain this.

Figure 1 needs a title.

Discussion, paragraph 7: It is important to clarify that you are referring to a decline in the number of FIRST TIME admissions to treatment.

Another limitation is that it was not possible to include information on incident HIV/HCV infections (at least I don’t think it was done?)

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests