Reviewer's report

Title: Association of frailty and physical function in patients with non-dialysis CKD: A systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 25 August 2013

Reviewer: Neville Dossabhoy

Reviewer's report:

The authors have made a good attempt at systematic review of a subject that has clinical importance, yet has not been studied much. Hence, the systematic review suffers from lack of literature previously published, as the authors point out themselves: "We screened 5,066 abstracts and retrieved 108 studies for full text review. We identified 7 studies associating frailty or physical function to CKD. From the 7 studies, we identified only two studies that related frailty in patients with CKD to a clinical outcome."

However, the strength of this paper is the high quality of the Discussion by the authors. It also highlights the direction of future research that is needed on this topic.

I believe that this paper will be a useful addition to the clinical Nephrology literature.

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