Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Impact of prior CKD management in a renal care network on early outcomes in incident dialysis patients: a prospective observational study

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 21 August 2012

**Reviewer:** Chester H Fox

**Reviewer’s report:**

this is a well written article on and important subject. I believe the article has a fatal flaw in that the numbers are too small to draw effective conclusions. Although a power analysis was done, it assumed a 75% relative risk reduction from baseline of 20% to 5% to be able to get statistical significance on a study sample size 40 active patients. It was also expected that this 75% reduction would occur within the first year. I do not think this is a clinically feasible assumption and therefore makes it difficult to draw effective conclusions regarding major outcomes such as cardiovascular events and mortality. The fact that there were significantly less diabetic patients in the treatment group makes understanding the clinical relevance of the findings that much more difficult. I therefore recommend that this paper be rejected. A study with a larger sample size would be of interest, especially if the number of diabetic patients were not significantly different in the two groups.

On a minor note, in the text it states that there were 22% of diabetic patients and 33% of patients in the control group, table 1 shows these two percentages should be the same at the 22.5%.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have no conflicts of interest