Reviewer's report

Title: The influence of psychosocial factors on the progression of chronic kidney disease: characteristics of pilot participants in the Tasmanian Chronic Kidney Disease cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 25 November 2012

Reviewer: Germaine Wong

Reviewer's report:

Thank you. An interesting study that assess the association between psychosocial factors and the progression of CKD, quality of life and costs of managing patients with CKD.

However, I have several questions and concerns regarding the methodological aspects, designs and feasibility of the study.

Major compulsory revisions:

1. Please clarify the meaning between “prospective association” between depression and adverse outcomes in patients prior to renal replacement therapy. (page 4, introduction).
2. There are a lot of QoL and psychosocial measures, but what are the primary outcomes of the study?
3. How did the authors calculate/estimate the sample size of the study?
4. Please justify the use of the different psychosocial and QoL measures. Many of which appeared to the disease specific. Whilst some are generic and utility-based? It is unclear why these were chosen and the relevance for the outcomes of interest.
5. Feasibility of conduct and follow-up of the study are of concern. What are some of the measures that the authors may employ to improve the overall participation rate of the study? (A participation rate of 48% seems rather low).
6. Previous studies have examined the association between depression and health outcomes in patients on dialysis. What is the novelty and the policy implications of this proposed study?

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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

Declaration of competing interests:
No specific competing interests.