Reviewer's report

Title: Low Income, Community Poverty and Risk of End Stage Renal Disease

Version: 2  Date: 16 September 2014

Reviewer: Donal O'Donoghue

Reviewer's report:

This paper adds to and extends the growing literature on the association between socio-economic deprivation and ESRD risk. Specifically it examined the relationship between ESRD risk and both community deprivation and individual household income. Individual household income but not SES of the area of residence was associated with ESRD. This has policy and implementation strategy implications as the authors point out.

There are a number of limitations that the authors flag including that 20% of the cohort could not be geocoded.

I would like to see more discussion of the limitations that the lack of life course information imposes - one interpretation may be that advanced kidney disease leads to reduced job opportunity and fall in income. This should be explored.

The study was largely concentrated in the stroke belt. The authors should think about assessing the relationships examined in other jurisdictions including the international literature.

The contrast between the finding in the ARIC cohort vs REGARDs could also be explored further.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'