Reviewer’s report

Title: The effectiveness of antenatal care programmes to reduce infant mortality and preterm birth in socially disadvantaged and vulnerable women in high-income countries: a systematic review

Version: 2 Date: 6 January 2011

Reviewer: Elaine Kidney

Reviewer’s report:

Minor essential revisions:
• Briefly refer in the discussion section to the possibility that studies without abstracts or without English abstracts may have been missed.
• In the abstract, remove the word “convincingly” in the penultimate sentence of the results section, to read “Fifteen studies had adequate internal validity; of these, only one demonstrated a beneficial effect on an outcome of interest”.
• Include Figure 2 in the main section (or remove reference to it)
• Remove references to Tables 4-5 under Tables unless they are to be put in the main section.

Discretionary Revisions:
• Consider whether the descriptions “not primary research” and “study not designed to address the review question” accurately describe the exclusions as carried out and if not substitute a more accurate description. If they are accurate, comment briefly in discussion section on possibility of selection bias.
• Change “multiply disadvantaged” to “multi-disadvantaged” (description of FNP(ref 50) in 4th paragraph of Programmes provided as an adjunct to comprehensive antenatal care.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.