Reviewer's report

Title: Stillbirth classification in population-based data and role of fetal growth restriction: the example of RECODE

Version: 2 Date: 13 July 2013

Reviewer: Elizabeth McClure

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Overall, this was a well-written manuscript that addresses the important issue of appropriate classification of cause of stillbirth; however, the question is limited to testing a modification of one of the existing systems. My main question was why the authors chose to revise RECODE (ranked 3rd) rather than use one of the other classification systems already developed. The paper could be strengthened by adding to the introduction a more explicit rationale for the choice of working on RECODE (e.g., the underlying message appeared to be that in the authors' opinion RECODE is the strongest classification system, but does not appropriately address FGR). However, given the authors’ objectives, the analyses were appropriate for the objectives of the study and well done.

The authors should also address whether this study was reviewed/approved by an ethics review committee.

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 I have no competing interests.